

Table of flight times and destinations including Abu Dhabi, Athens, Amsterdam, etc.

The Guardian INTERNATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR



Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

46.588

Anne Karpf on living with the Holocaust

The war afterwards

G2 with European weather

The world's other first ladies

Eat your heart out, Hillary

Women G2 pages 12-14

Education

Dirty tricks in the funding bazaar

Pages 10-11

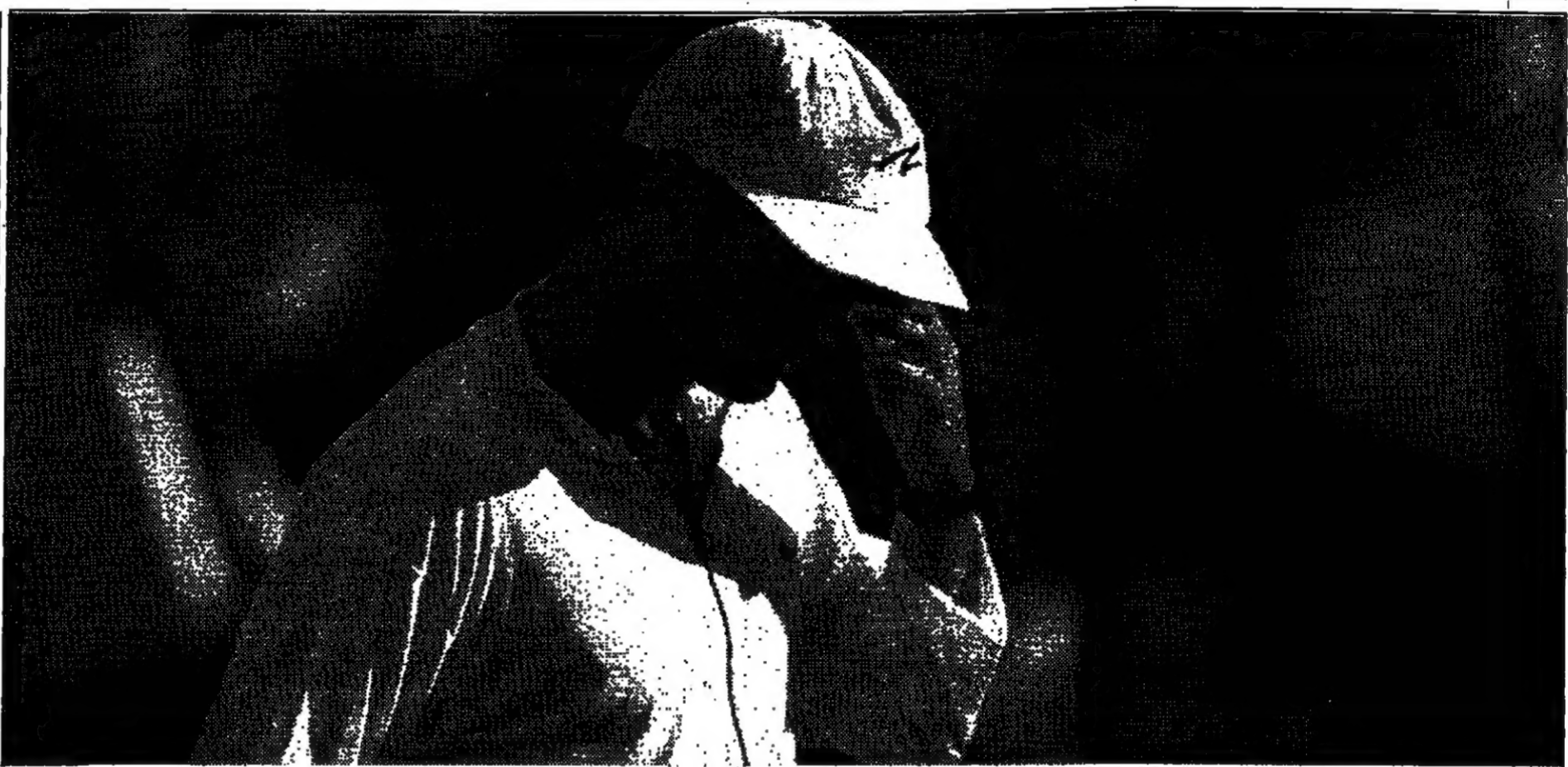


Lilley evades asylum ruling

Alan Travis Home Affairs Editor

THE Government is to overturn last week's Appeal Court judgment on withdrawing welfare benefits from most asylum seekers by rushing emergency asylum legislation through Parliament. Social Security Secretary Peter Lilley insisted the measures were essential if Britain was to remain a safe haven for genuine refugees and not a "soft touch" for false claimants. "We are determined that this judgment will not provide a blank cheque for bogus asylum seekers," he said. But his Commons statement caused an outcry. Labour said the plan to rush through a series of amendments to the Asylum and Immigration Bill was an "abuse of process", while immigrants' rights groups called it a "moral outrage". The decision to introduce emergency legislation means that ministers decided it was unlikely they would win if they appealed their case to the House of Lords. The new legislation will be incorporated into the bill at the last possible moment, with new clauses being tabled next Monday at its third reading stage in the Lords. An attempt by angry opposition peers to suspend last night's stage of consideration of the bill until Monday was defeated by 135 votes to 100. Mr Lilley said the new legislation would write into statute the power to exclude benefits from asylum seekers who failed to claim refugee status when they first arrived, or whose claim had been rejected but were appealing. He offered one small concession by saying that those whose asylum claims were eventually granted in full would receive a welfare benefit payment backdated to the day they lodged a claim for refugee status. Claud Moraes, director of The Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants, which brought the Appeal Court case on behalf of Miss B, an asylum seeker fleeing from Zaïre, said the Government's

action was a moral outrage. "To come back with emergency legislation simply because they don't want to face the higher court shows the moral depths to which this Government has sunk in attempting to keep the 'race card' element of the Asylum Bill intact." Refugee Council director, Nick Hardwick, was disturbed about the details of the package. "The new proposals won't work because it takes an average of 18 months to have asylum claims finally determined - how is a person supposed to survive in the meantime?" Labour's Social Security spokesman, Chris Smith, said the decision to "judgeproof" the legislation only highlighted the Government's incompetence. He told Mr Lilley: "In a supposedly civilised country, you are leaving people to starve. You have acted with both inhumanity and injustice. Will you now think again and abandon your foolish intention to legislate your way around the problem?" In their ruling last Friday, the senior judges described Mr Lilley's policy of withdrawing welfare benefits as "uncompromisingly draconian" and ruled it illegal. They said Mr Lilley and Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, had been less generous towards "poor foreigners" than the government had been in Napoleonic times and was effectively denying asylum seekers appeal rights. More than 8,000 people seeking asylum in Britain have been left without official means of support since their entitlement to claim benefits was withdrawn on February 5. The Benefits Agency has instructed its office to start accepting new claims from asylum seekers in line with the Appeal Court ruling. They will pay welfare benefits to asylum seekers until the emergency legislation becomes law in about three weeks' time. Ministers are considering whether the court ruling means that all 8,000 who should have received benefits since February will now be paid out as well. The legislation cannot give retrospective cover.



Andre Agassi, 1992 Wimbledon champion, suffered a shock defeat by fellow-American Doug Flach in the first round yesterday. Reports, pages 15, 16. PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JENKINS

Fifth column enters the phoney war

The grubby little men who write this sort of trash should remember that our monarchy are krauts and that our defence minister is a dago'

Lord Healey

John Duncan Sports Correspondent

THE Daily Mirror editor, Piers Morgan, faces a swelling fifth column of England supporters in his bid to put the country on a war footing for the Euro 96 semi-final meeting with Germany tomorrow. The first sniper fire against Morgan's dirty phoney war - "Achims! Surrender. For you Fritz at Euro 96 is over. The Mirror declares soccer war against Germany" - was heard in Camcock, Staffordshire, yesterday when one Mirror reader, Andy Carmichael, reported the newspaper and its editor to West Midlands police for inciting racial hatred, an offence under the Public Order Act. "I have been to the library and looked at the act and the rubbish they had on the front page is in blatant breach," said Mr Carmichael. The police are investigating, according to Mr Carmichael. The next stage would be a report for the Crown Prosecution Service and the



All change: the red shirt of 1966 and tomorrow's indigo blue

England waive red and white for indigo blue

THE three lions will still lie on the chest, just like in 1966, but England will face Germany at Wembley tomorrow night in grey kits after they lost the draw for the right to wear first choice shirts, writes John Duncan. Umbro, the manufacturer, can say the kit is not grey until they are indigo blue in the face, but critics insist it is bland and goes against tradition. One team had to change because England's normal colours - white shirts and blue shorts - clash with Germany's white and black. However, in an untypical



failure to exploit the nation's appetite for new kits - the 1994 spend on replicas was more than £155 million - Umbro have not leapt to England's aid

and into parental wallets with the red shirts, as worn in the triumphant 1966 World Cup Final, many fans would now like to see. The players say they do not care. "It does not make one iota of a difference to them," said a spokesman. There have been fears that grey kits make spotting team-mates harder because the colour blends into the crowd. Manchester United abandoned their Umbro grey kit at half-time in a match against Southampton last season because the players said they could not see each other. "Our record in grey so far is played two, won two - against Bulgaria and Hong Kong," said David Davies, the FA director of communications. "Terry is very relaxed about it all and the Manchester United thing does not come into it."

PO could lose £1bn in 'junk mail' privatisation

Ministers accused of back door tactics in European directive

David Hencks Westminster Correspondent

THE Government will announce that it wants to privatise the Post Office's £1 billion a year "junk mail" business on Thursday - the day the Royal Mail strikes the second of its 24-hour strikes costing the national-

direct mail business across the country. The Post Office said last night that such a move would mean the end of national first and second class stamps because the "direct mail" business subsidised the national one-price delivery service. Instead, royal pricing with much higher charges for letters to Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and between English regions would be introduced. The decision, which would be drawn up in detail by 1998

for implementation in 2001, will be the first break in the Post Office's monopoly for letters under £1. Britain's intentions have been revealed in confidential minutes, in French, of meetings over the past month in Brussels obtained by Dr Kim Howells, Labour's industry spokesman. Dr Howells said yesterday: "Ministers, having been defeated by lack of support from their own backbenchers in the British Parliament, are exposed as working in Europe

to introduce privatisation by the back door, using the qualified majority voting scheme they profess to despise. It is absolutely outrageous." According to the minutes, Britain showed its hand on June 10 when a working party attended by officials agreed a proposal, billed as a compromise, to end its opposition to the liberalisation of the direct mail business which has been Britain's position for the last five years. The proposal put forward by Britain was discussed at a

meeting on June 14 of the EU ambassadors and Britain, with support from the German, Swedish, Finnish, Holland and Ireland. The plan has been put on the Telecommunications Council agenda for Thursday where Britain, using the qualified majority voting formula, wants to push it through. The Post Office pointed out yesterday that personally addressed direct mail brought in a total of £800 million last year and mail addressed to "the occupier" another £400 million.

Table of contents for various sections: Inside Britain, World News, Finance, Sport, Comment and Letters 8, Obituaries 10, G2, Crossword 16, Weather 18, Radio 16, TV 16.

TORONTO AND NEW YORK BA 747 from Heathrow to Toronto on 11 Aug, 30 Aug or 14 Sep. Niagara with helicopter. Concorde return £1,999 or £2,999 with Concorde both ways on 18 Sept.

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Sketch

Epilogue to the Florentine farce



Simon Hoggart

THE PRIME Minister, back from Florence, was subjected to a vicious attack, dripping with acid venom...

And that was just a Tory backbencher. You should have heard the rest. Admittedly the backbencher was George Walden...

Mr Major had made a statement on beef. It was measured and grave, filled with soothing jargon: "accelerated slaughter"

Kalin Twins hit, which was titled When. When, when, when we kiss, when we say goodbye...

This sort of construct is the Möbius strip of rhetoric, and Mr Major is trying to resist...

Next Douglas Hurd rose to offer support. In the relaxed, faintly weary style of the memoirs he is reading on the radio...

Were you aware of this? Have you ever heard anyone in a pub say: "That Tony Blair! Mr Carp, I call him. And as for that Paddy Bloody Criticise, well!"

Review

Conducting an urbane courtship

Martin Kettle

Arabella Glyndebourne

THE last of the Strauss-Hofmannstahl operas is a confection in which Nice Girl meets Mr Right that would be rejected as insultingly sentimental by Mills & Boon...

John Cox's production was designed for the small, deep old Glyndebourne theatre and looks a little lost on the bigger stage of the new theatre...

That it does is in no small measure due also to the lush and erudite conducting of Dietrich Bernet...

Unemployed man pleads not guilty to Sophie murder

David Ward

AN UNEMPLOYED garage painter pleaded not guilty yesterday to a charge of murdering Sophie Hook...

poised to become one of those legendary, once neglected names on whom this business thrives...

The Canadian soprano Adrienne Pieczonka, also Vienna-based, sings the title role with unaffected sincerity...

All singers of the principal male role in this opera perform in the shadow of Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau...

Among the supporting characters, Alison Hagley stood out as the younger sister Zdenka, bright-toned and intense...

The Viennese Bernet studied with no less a pair of teachers than Mitropoulos and Swarowsky...

Lifting of ban depends on clearing backlog of cattle awaiting slaughter, Prime Minister concedes

Cull delay hits beef hopes

Michael White Political Editor

THE backlog of cattle waiting to be slaughtered will have to be disposed of before the EU's worldwide beef ban can begin to be lifted...

His upbeat interpretation would leave only animals over 30 months, those most vulnerable to BSE, still under the ban...

Mr Blair smiled amiably at this, which must have been a relief, because he'd spent the rest of the session practising his new grimace...

Next Douglas Hurd rose to offer support. In the relaxed, faintly weary style of the memoirs he is reading on the radio...

Improvements are being rapidly improvised, but the core problem is likely to be the disposal of the bodies. At 30,000 a week...

Mr Major's admission, made during his post-Florence summit report, was seized upon by critical Opposition MPs...

That represents a considerable obstacle. Intervention Board officials said last night. Although some 160,000 cattle have already been killed...

table is essentially in our hands," he said — as Tony Blair and Paddy Ashdown protested that a series of EU committees still had to give approval to a scheme which...

In sharp exchanges Douglas Hurd made a rare intervention to support his old boss against "mischief-making" by the Opposition...

Although the Liberal Democrats are staging a Commons debate tonight, symbolically seeking to dock £1,000 of the salary of Douglas Hogg...

But in terms of domestic political management, the Prime Minister's report to the Commons in the wake of the framework agreement at the Florence summit was striking...

Mr Major said "normal business" had been restored with the EU. "We were right to stand up for our interests. But I now look forward to working with our partners on our positive vision of Europe as a strong partnership of nations."

Leader comment, page 8



Wreath at the graveside bearing the inscription. From the commanding officer and all ranks and staff, 23 SAS



Hero survived Himalayan brigands, Axis dive bombers, and the food on the Soviet railways



One mourner prepares to exit by helicopter after the funeral at Strachur yesterday of the war hero and diplomat Sir Fitzroy Maclean (top left)

Quiet farewell to man of action

AN UNEXPECTED calm surrounded the 209-year-old church of Strachur yesterday. Birds sang; leaves rustled...

Outside, a whiskered Jimmy MacNab, steward on Sir Fitzroy's Highland estate, provided a glimpse of the patriotism that inspired his late master to christen his SAS tent the Clachan (the Homestead)...

Whenever we passed the wee bridge at Arrochar, he'd say, "Give a roo on your horn, Jimmy. I'm home."

It was shortly after drinking two glasses of plum brandy with the resistance leader, Josip Tito, that the warrior poet, as Sir Donald

Fifth column enters the war

continued from page 1 disaster when the Sun was boycotted on Merseyside after claiming that Liverpool fans were drunk and were responsible for the disaster...



Yesterday's Mirror page one from Liverpool. said: "I suppose it's amusing up to a point. But you can see why some people are going to be offended. The Sun usually does these things with more style and wit, and they have been a bit more restrained."

However, a couple of lunchtime drinkers did like the Mirror's coverage. Steve Burney, 36, a retailer, said: "It's jovial. It's not aggressive at all. But it's not important. All that matters is the result on Wednesday."

'It's gone beyond a joke and below the belt'

WHILE much of the country squirmed with embarrassment over tabloid xenophobia, some Germans living here were keen to defuse the situation...

more about England than Germany. I just don't understand why you allow newspapers to represent you in this way.

able to print this. The press here sometimes don't seem to feel they have any responsibility for what they publish. If Germany win on Wednesday and there is trouble outside Wembley, they will say they were only joking. But you shouldn't play with hostility or war.

Advertisement for General Accident Direct insurance, featuring a hand holding a pen and the text 'PAY YOUR MOTOR AND HOME INSURANCE BIT BY BIT, INTEREST FREE.'

Advertisement for 'Fast' insurance, featuring a car and the text 'Fast' and '£999 (£1,200)'.

Handwritten signature or note at the bottom of the page.

Flak greets Labour plan on benefits

David Brindley
Rebecca Smithers
and Seamus Milne

LABOUR yesterday ran into controversy over what it means by "flexible benefits" when it published its long-awaited welfare-to-work plans to get people off the dole. Critics seized on proposals to pilot-test benefit variation as evidence that the party was abandoning its commitment to universal social security entitlement. Party leaders insisted the idea would be voluntary.

There was further concern on Labour's left wing that the plans did not include a commitment to scrap the Government's jobseeker's allowance and revert to entitlement to 12 months' unemployment benefit.

Chris Smith, shadow social security secretary, promised only that Labour would "review" the scheme once in office. It is understood that he dropped a commitment to abolish it after intervention by Tony Blair, the party leader.

Labour's plans aim to get an unspecified number of unemployed people into work by steps including:
□ Personalising benefit and employment services by giving tailor-made help with skills training and job search, along lines of schemes in Australia and California;
□ Merging benefit and employment advice offices into "one-stop shops" and introducing a single claim for all main benefits;
□ Encouraging jobless people to study and do voluntary work, removing existing penalties which limit both. They would also be given more scope for occasional paid employment;

□ Giving people taking temporary or "uncertain" work an automatic right to re-entitlement to income support at their previous rate, should the job not work out.

Attention centred, however, on plans for a pilot scheme under which unemployed people could make "flexible local use" of benefit and training money.

Labour's policy document says: "This will allow local decision-makers flexible use

of resources for benefits, training and special employment measures for individual claimants.

"For each claimant a nominal figure — equivalent to the expected expenditure on government training schemes and benefit income for people in their circumstances — will be given over" to case managers to be used in agreement with the individual in the best way to promote their job prospects.

Mr Smith said there would be no compulsion to vary benefit income: "Individuals wished to continue drawing full entitlement, they would be fully at liberty to do so.

The only circumstances in which a case manager would over-ride an individual would be ones in which "some completely absurd suggestion" had been made, he said.

"If, for example, they said they wanted to take this money and go off to Antigua for two weeks and learn about the tourist industry, clearly the case manager would have to say no, that's not possible."

However, welfare groups expressed concern at the proposal — while welcoming Labour's plans as a whole.

Sally Withers, director of the Child Poverty Action Group, said: "This kind of approach is not about people's rights, but about people getting different treatment according to where they live."

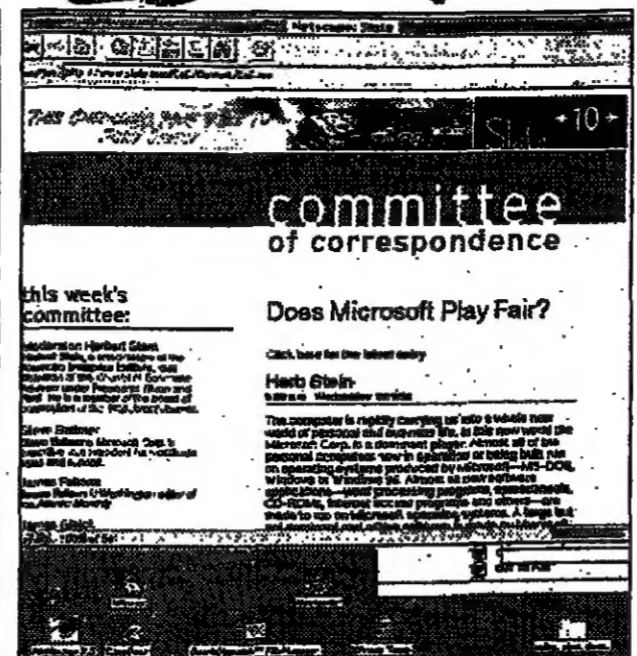
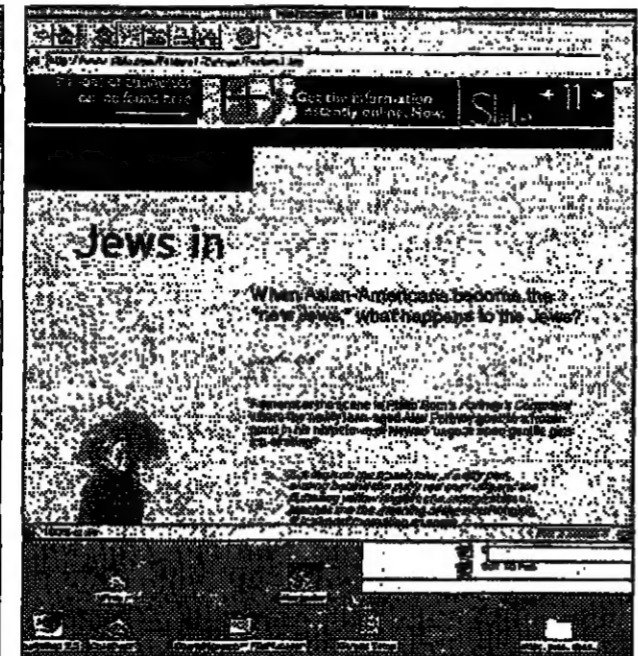
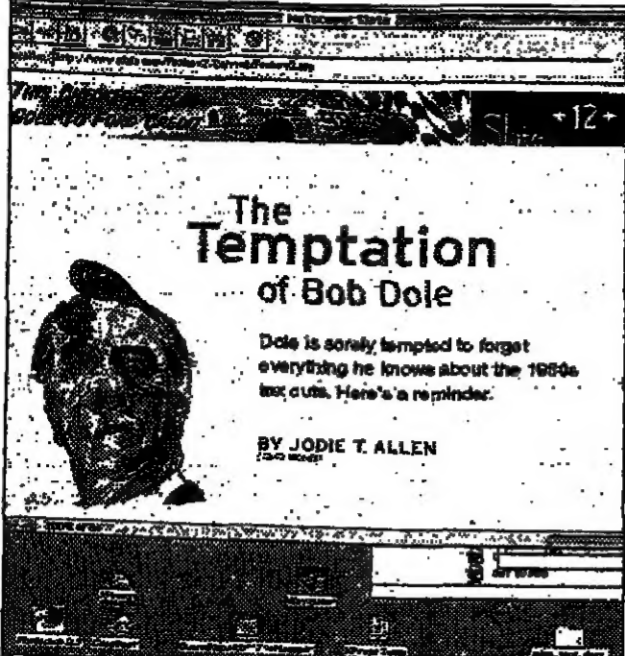
Paul Goggins, co-ordinator of Church Action on Poverty, asked: "Will this new flexibility lead to lower social security payments? People on benefits can barely survive as it is."

Mr Goggins also called for greater clarity from Labour on jobseeker's allowance, the abolition of which is believed to have been included in a first draft of yesterday's plans.

Shadow ministers involved in drawing up the plans say Mr Blair sided with Gordon Brown, the shadow chancellor, against Mr Smith's wish to scrap the six-month allowance.

The party leader is said to have declared that making such a commitment would "send the wrong message out" about people staying on benefit.

Leader comment, page 8



Cyberspace hits news-stands... Websites (above) of the launch issue of Slate, the Internet magazine edited by Michael Kinsley (left) and financed by Microsoft's Bill Gates (right)

US webzine slated as 'online re-hash'

Martin Walker
in Washington

TRUMPETED as the first paperless current affairs magazine produced solely for the Internet, the weekly Slate made its debut yesterday. Paradoxically, the "webzine" designed to be the hottest, fastest product in the United States media hit the news-stands first rather than the Internet. Time magazine bought exclusive reprint rights. The editor, Michael Kinsley, who made his name editing conventional magazines such as Harper's and the New Republic, stresses in his launch issue that Slate will avoid "the deadening conformity in the hipness of cyberspace culture". "We intend to take a fairly sceptical stance toward the romance and rapidly escalating vanity of cyberspace," Mr Kinsley writes in his statement of editorial intentions. "We want to bring cyberspace down to earth."

Welcomed or slated — media rivals' views on a new cousin

"This is good old-fashioned writing by very smart people that could appear in print. Print has always been a better medium for that. Competition? Not this year." *Walker Isaacson, editor, Time*

"It's great stuff for their audience, and what they are trying to do, which is really to online a re-hash of the New Republic. There is nothing new, nothing interactive, nothing that understands that this is a new medium." *Declan McCullough, Washington editor, HotWired*

"The question is going to be how much appetite do people on the Net have for reading the lengthy articles Mike is offering. He's really talented, but he's facing a real challenge in trying to serve two audiences — his peers in serious print journalism, and the new 'zine world of the Net'." *Michael Ruby, editor, US News and World Report*

"I don't think this can ever be a threat to the serendipitous delights of reading, to the antique pleasures of the text and the inherent democracy of

print. But I'm frightened of a world closed to those without \$2,000 for a computer and a high-speed modem." *Jack Beatty, editor, Atlantic Monthly*

"I'm glad Michael is doing this... but I'm inherently sceptical about the viability of electronic magazines — even Slate is the most interesting of the 200 that have been published so far." *James Fallows, author, Breaking The News: How The Media Undermine American Democracy*

"Kinsley's ideas are derivative ones, even more so with a company like Microsoft that has a long history of recycling other people's innovations." *Feed on-line magazine*

"He has to go after the widest readership possible. Bill Gates does not invest in boutiques." *Mary Peraz, owner and editor-in-chief, The New Republic*

"This isn't going to change the world. It's a learning experience." *Michael Kinsley, editor, Slate*

its way over the Net product, as well as the software. "Does Microsoft play fair? Of course not," one surfer insists. "There hasn't been a significant entry into, for example, word processing in years — not because the word processor has been perfected but because Microsoft has locked up the space." Slate is now available free on the Web (<http://www.slate.com>). But after November and after the presidential election — there will be an annual subscription of \$19.95 (\$13, and on-line advertising. "They are charging? — More power to them," said David Zweig, publisher of the on-line literary magazine Salon, whose worry about competition is outweighed by the prospect of Slate making cyberspace commercially viable. "If he can prove that quality pays on the Web, I think that's great." The backers of Slate — and the proliferating ranks of specialist magazines on the Net — hope advertising will follow where readers rush in. *Inside story, G2 page 4*

Girls held in Italy 'duped' into smuggling drugs

British teenagers claim they did not know of heroin in luggage

Owen Bowcott

TWO teenage British girls held in Italian prisons on drugs-smuggling charges yesterday denied knowing that the luggage they were carrying contained around £600,000 of pure heroin.

Melanie Jackman, aged 19, and Marianne Platt, aged 16, both from Brighton, were kept under surveillance by Italian police after flying into Rome's Fiumicino airport from Turkey earlier this month. The two friends face charges of possessing and im-

porting 10lb of the refined drug after being arrested in the company of a Nigerian couple in the small town of Aversa, 20km outside Rome. The Nigerians had travelled on the same flight from Istanbul.

The British vice-consul in Naples, Michael Burgoyne, has seen both girls, who are being held in different prisons, several times since they were detained on June 7.

Melanie is in a women's prison in Arzeno, near Capri, along with the Nigerian woman who was arrested with her. Marianne has been moved from a juvenile detention centre in Nisida, near

traumatic experience for them. They have told me that they did not know that the luggage they were carrying contained drugs.

"We are in contact with their relatives and have made sure they are as comfortable as possible in the circumstances.

"The public prosecutor's office is still investigating which charges to bring, although the arrests have been confirmed by the judge for preliminary investigations."

Ms Jackman's father has also flown out to visit her. Ms Platt's mother is expected to visit her in the next few days. It may be several weeks before either girl is given an opportunity to apply for bail. Neither speaks Italian. Each girl is allowed one telephone call a week.

Marianne's mother, Jackie King, 36, said she was shocked to discover that her daughter was in Italy. She had believed the two girls were on holiday in Greece, where Melanie was going to work as a nanny for a holiday couple.

Marianne, who has 12 GCSEs, was an innocent dupe, she insisted.

The Italian police believe the girls were working for a Nigeria-based trafficking syndicate. A spokesman said: "We want to know why two young, fresh-faced and polite-looking British women were in possession of such a large amount of heroin."

Last month Italian authorities arrested 14 Naples-based US Navy sailors who had allegedly been recruited by Nigerian drug dealers to bring

in heroin from Turkey.

If convicted, Ms Jackman could face up to five years in prison, although her sentence may be less if she co-operates with investigators.

Marianne Platt could escape jail because of her age. Until last summer she was a pupil at the School of Performing Arts and Technology Colleges in Selhurst, south-east London, and had been chosen to show John Major around when he visited the school two years ago. The 16-year-old is understood to have ambitions to become an actress.

"I really don't know what sort of people she got involved with but I'm certain she would not have knowingly carried drugs," Mrs King said. "Marianne does not even smoke cigarettes."

leaflets to 500 Scotswood houses inviting people to apply for the vacancies. Community agencies organised training courses. The Employment Agency was asked to screen applicants.

But the response shocked the store manager, Phil Morley. "We only got replies to half the leaflets and out of that under 20 per cent turned up for an interview."

In the end 118 of the available jobs went to unemployed people from a wider area.

With unemployment now into third and fourth generations, Sir Jeremy Beecham, a local Labour councillor who leads the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, says a work culture is now foreign to some of his constituents.

The episode provides an acid test of how a future Labour government would tackle an area like Scotswood. Just what would an incoming Social Security Secretary, like Chris Smith, withdraw the carrot and start wielding the stick when people decided a job?

"I am under no illusions that they'll come down as hard as — maybe harder than — the Tories," said a local voluntary worker who guides the jobless towards work opportunities.

They will come down on the jobless as hard as the Tories

Peter Hetherington

STROLLING through the Scotswood estate on a hot afternoon, Christopher insists that a job, any job, would come as a blessed relief.

Now 24, he has been unemployed since leaving school in Newcastle upon Tyne at 16, although a one-year YTS course on car mechanics provided a little insight into the world of work.

He stresses that life on the dole — £36 a week in his case — is far from enjoyable. "I have tried to get a job, honestly. But there's nothing round here unless you're a woman. And then it's part-time cleaning work."

His 21-year-old companion, John, has to think hard before identifying any friend in work. Nursing a leg damaged when he crashed a stolen car six years ago, he says: "At least half the people in my year at school are unemployed."

But a few hundred yards down the road, a little boy did come to Scotswood earlier this year. A large DIY store offered around 150 jobs in an area where pockets of male unemployment top 50 per cent.

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Woman sues over cancer treatment

A WOMAN is suing for damages over the side-effects of the unnecessary radiation and drug therapy she underwent after being wrongly told she was "riddled" with cancer.

Medical chiefs have admitted that the consultant's diagnosis of Joanna Johanson's condition was wrong and that the treatment she received was "inappropriate", but the High Court heard they are fighting her damages claim on the question of whether, and to what extent, the treatment caused her subsequent illnesses.

Mrs Johanson, aged 58, a former telecommunications sales operative of Torquay, is suing Medway Health Authority and South East Thames regional health authority over the treatment she received at St Williams Hospital, Rochester, Kent, between February and July 1982.

Her counsel, Nicola Davies QC, told Mr Justice Wright that after she had her left breast correctly removed in January 1982, her surgeon referred her to consultant radiotherapist and oncologist David Jenkins at St Williams for possible post-operative therapy.

Dr Jenkins, despite being informed that a skeletal scan had revealed no cancerous growths, diagnosed widespread bone cancer.

When Mrs Johanson queried the diagnosis, he used words to the effect: "I've been in the business a long time and I know cancer when I see it," the court heard.

He told her he could not guarantee that treatment would work, but said it had helped a lot of other people.

"When she left that interview, she believed she did not have long to live," said Miss Davies. "She was devastated by what she had been told."

Mrs Johanson underwent seven courses of radiotherapy, high steroid drug treatment and chemotherapy.

As the treatment continued, she became ill. She began suffering chest pains which made it impossible to swallow. She began vomiting and became weak. Her skin turned yellow, her hair fell out and she had to have inpatient treatment.

She again queried the diag-

nosis and was told by Dr Jenkins that she was riddled with cancer and that it had affected her liver and spleen.

After five months of intensive treatment Mrs Johanson went to King's College Hospital, London, for a second opinion. She was told there was no sign of cancer.

"Dr Jenkins had effectively told her she was dying. The second opinion demonstrated that his diagnosis and the treatment he advised were completely wrong," Miss Davies said.

Mrs Johanson alleges the treatment ultimately caused the collapse of five spinal vertebrae; an incurable bone disease, osteoporosis; the radiation of both ovaries, inducing an artificial menopause; and radiation damage to her left hip and femur and her lymph glands. She also says she suffered a clinical depressive illness.

'Dr Jenkins had told her she was dying. The second opinion showed he was wrong'

Mrs Johanson told the judge she was "horrified" when Dr Jenkins said she had cancer and "weeks rather than months" to live.

Later, while still undergoing therapy, she learned there was no sign of cancer. "I was totally elated. I couldn't believe it."

Then her spine collapsed and she spent 4½ months in hospital before being told she had osteoporosis and would be disabled for the rest of her life.

Mrs Johanson said she had once been "a totally different person, full of confidence, forthright, energetic, switched on". She had enjoyed night-clubbing, dancing, tennis and playing the organ.

Now there were times when, despite her high tolerance to pain, she could not cope with the pain in her back and ribs. Even on a good day, she could not walk further than 500 yards.

The hearing continues today.



Sculptor Walter Bailey with his latest work, celebrating the new kingfisher nature trail in woodland by Ardingly reservoir, near Haywards Heath, West Sussex. PHOTOGRAPH ROGER SAMBER

Quango blow to Major's grammar school plan

John Carvel
Education Editor

THE quango responsible for self-governing state schools yesterday punctured John Major's claim that his plans for reforming the comprehensives could lead to a "grammar school in every town".

Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, will today publish a white paper calling for pow-

ers to set up grant maintained schools in the inner cities to break the monopoly of local education authority control.

A spokesman for the Funding Agency for Schools warned there was no reason to assume self-governing schools would take advantage of new powers to select up to half their pupils without requiring special ministerial consent.

Only 41 of the 1,034 grant maintained schools which have opted out of local

authority control use their current discretion to select up to 10 per cent of their intake. Of those, 36 choose pupils for aptitude in music or drama rather than by general academic ability.

The agency said its proposed extra powers to expand the sector would mean nothing without extra funding. Its capital budget is set to drop next year from £128 million to £134 million. According to Labour estimates, the average price of a new grammar

school would be £10 million and the cost of building enough to accommodate 5 per cent of children would be £2 billion.

David Blunkett, the shadow education secretary, said this would add a penny in the pound to income tax unless the money was taken from other schools, including those already in the grant maintained sector.

"Nineteen out of 20 children will lose out under the Government's plan for a

grammar school in every town", he said. Labour stepped up its attack on Mrs Shephard's "hypocrisy" for supporting the return of a system of selective education which she opposed as a Norfolk councillor in the late 1970s.

The party produced evidence to suggest she helped close at least nine Norfolk grammar schools, including her own.

Labour local authority leaders were last night planning a

fightback against the white paper plans to erode their responsibilities.

Graham Lane, education chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, says in an article in today's Guardian that councils must be "responsible for administering policies of all publicly-funded schools in their area". This would "effectively remove the need for grant-maintained schools."

Family loyalties, page 9

Minister 'knew deportee ill'

Geoffrey Gibbs

SUPPORTERS of Albert Tong, the Hong Kong man fighting extradition, yesterday called for clarification of statements that Home Office ministers were unaware of his medical condition before his arrest last week.

Mr Tong, who has lived in Camborne, Cornwall, for 17 years, was admitted to hospital with a suspected mild heart attack after being removed from the Methodist church in which he had taken shelter.

News of Mr Tong's collapse in police custody prompted the Home Office to investigate. It said ministers had not been told about his condition. Campaigners yesterday released the text of a letter from Immigration Service headquarters in Croydon, south London, which appeared to contradict that assertion.

The letter written to Mr Tong's Birmingham solicitors on May 24 — five days before he was to be put on a flight from Heathrow — said Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, was not prepared to defer his deportation.

The letter added: "The Secretary of State has noted your

comments concerning Mr and Mrs Tong's medical problems. However, he is not satisfied that these constitute a sufficiently compelling, compassionate factor to justify deferring Mr Tong's removal."

A Home Office spokeswoman said the letter had been worded in that way because under the Immigration Act every action taken by the service was on behalf of the Home Secretary.

Matthew Taylor, the Liberal Democrat MP for Truro, yesterday called on the Government to make a statement on the case. "Letters have been signed on behalf of ministers that have clearly contradicted ministerial statements."

"Although the Home Office has announced an internal inquiry they have not announced what it will cover, when it will report or even if it will be made public."

Mr Taylor, who visited Mr Tong in hospital over the weekend, said the case had badly. "It's hard to imagine the Home Office getting it more wrong than they have. Mr Tong is in some distress about the way he was handled and terrified that they will walk into the hospital at any moment and take him away."

New delay for British Library

David Hencke
Westminster Correspondent

THE full opening of the British Library is to be delayed by yet another year as well as costing the taxpayer an extra £15 million, MPs heard yesterday.

Brian Lang, chief executive of the British Library, told the Public Accounts Committee that the date for the final stage of the scheme — the opening of the science reading room — had been put back from March 1996 to June 1998. The opening of the first part of the library, the humanities reading room, has been put back a further month to November 1997. The entire library should have been opened in 1993.

The extra £15 million on the £511 million budget was because of overspending.

Hayden Phillips, permanent secretary at the Department of National Heritage, for a "sorry story of failure" and "a bean feast for management consultants".

The idea for a new library was first mooted 50 years ago, took 22 years to plan and looks like taking 11 years to build and will reach full capacity for science readers on the day it opens and for

humanities readers by 2003. Mr Phillips, under cross questioning from Alan Williams, Labour MP for Swansea West, claimed it was "still good value for money" because of its new facilities to store books and the flexibility it offered to readers on the same site.

Peter Thurnham, independent Conservative MP for Bolton North East, was highly critical of the £100 million paid to consultants, including building up expenses during the time the project was delayed. This amounted to a bean feast.

Mr Phillips said there was not enough evidence to prove negligence by Lang and that other companies and the former Property Services Agency were also to blame.

Mr Phillips disclosed that millions of pounds had also been paid by his department in litigation cases, but he refused to disclose the figure for "commercial and legal reasons".

Mr Hall accused him of refusing to disclose "how much has been lost to the taxpayer in this way".

Labour seeks fresh foreign view

Cook highlights party's desire to show internationalist pedigree

Ian Black
Diplomatic Editor

THE Labour Party laid out its international strategy today with a savage attack on Conservative "insularity and isolationism" that has drawn on "chauvinist, outdated nationalism" and sidelined Britain in Europe.

In its policy document, A Fresh Start for Britain, Robin Cook, the shadow foreign secretary, accuses the Government of squandering

resources and displaying damaging indifference to its obligations.

Labour boasts of its own internationalist credentials by promising to place Europe "at the centre of its strategy" though pledges on the sensitive issues of monetary union and the veto are all carefully formulated to give no hostages to fortune.

Economic and monetary union could produce "significant benefits". But "convergence must be based on improving levels of growth and employment and not just on

Further integration should depend on whether it is essential in order to pursue common objectives. "But Labour will resist the creation of a centralised European superstate," it promises.

As reported in this month's earlier this month, Labour plans to appoint ambassadors from the business world to countries with big trade opportunities. In overseas Development Administration — subordinate to the Foreign Office — will be transformed into a Department of International Development headed by a cabinet minister.

Labour wants to reform the

United Nations and revitalise neglected ties with the Commonwealth. "At present British government that is insular in its mentality and isolationist in its foreign strategy," Mr Cook writes.

"Their backbenchers and articulate the language of a chauvinist, outdated nationalism rather than the realities of the modern world."

In a strongly moral message, Mr Cook says: "We only bring our nation into contempt if we apply double standards to the values we demand for ourselves compared to the treatment we are prepared to condone for the citizens of other countries."

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GP blames efficiency savings for case of 72-year-old who waited 10 weeks for breast cancer operation

NHS 'needs an extra £6bn'

Chris Millill
Medical Correspondent

THE CASE of a 72-year-old woman who suffered mental anguish while being made to wait 10 weeks for breast cancer surgery was an example of the dangerous cuts in the National Health Service, the British Medical Association was told yesterday.

At its annual conference in Brighton, the BMA called for an extra £6 billion to be put into the health service and for an end to annual 3 per cent "efficiency savings", which doctors described as a euphemism for cuts.

man said: "We cannot go on meeting each succeeding crisis with quick-fix expedients which merely displace the pain and strain elsewhere. This process has been described as shuffling the deck chairs on the Titanic. We need to change the course of our ship of state into more constantly charted waters if it is not to suffer the same fate."

three weeks under national guidelines. However she was told she would have to wait 10 weeks because of lack of beds at the Royal London.

Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, conceded that the NHS was under pressure but said funding had increased continuously since 1979.

"Those who work in the health service work under considerable pressure — that is true almost anywhere in the modern world of work."

Health managers scorn 'unrealistic' BMA demand

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

HEALTH managers scorned Sandy Macara's "unrealistic" demand for an extra £6 billion for the NHS and warned that his outspoken comments would frighten people and devalue proper

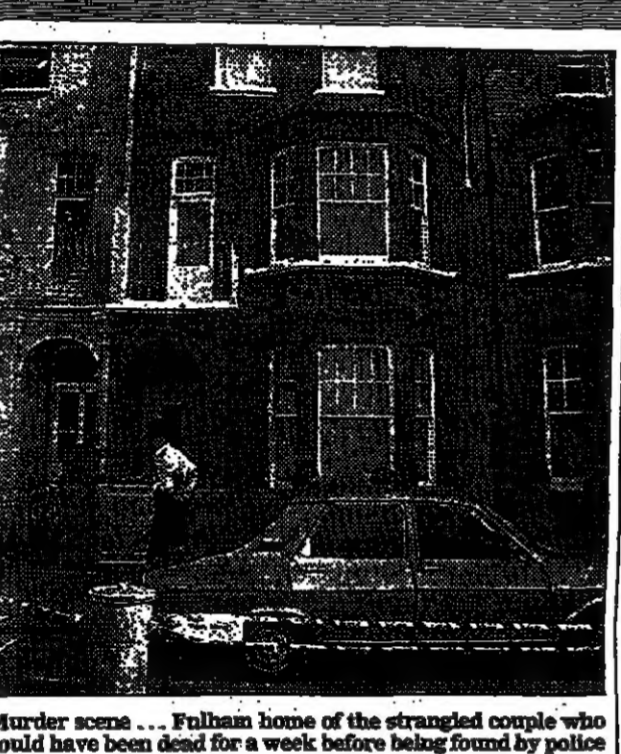
debate. "An additional £6 billion is the cost of the police force in this country."

every person in the country the health service's relatively cheap. It costs less than 6 per cent of gross domestic product and, after taking additional account of private health care, Britain stands 18th of 24 leading countries in terms of total health care spending.

knowledge that a Labour government would face a "funding gap" for the NHS.

Experts agree at least 0.8 per cent a year extra is needed because of the ageing population and another 0.5/0.8 per cent is soaked up by the costs of medical advances, so this year's

real increase was barely enough.



Elderly Polish couple 'killed during minor house robbery'

Duncan Campbell
Crime Correspondent

APOLISH couple in their eighties were tied up and deliberately suffocated at their home in west London last week in what appeared to be the course of a minor theft, police said yesterday.

his mouth. Both could have been dead for a week.



An undated picture of Kornelia and Joseph Floch who had come to this country as refugees from Lwow, Poland

News in brief

Navy ship monitors North Sea spat

AN ARMED British navy ship was sent yesterday to monitor the scene after a Danish fishing boat rammed a Greenpeace vessel as the environmental group tried to stop industrial fishing off the Scottish east coast.

Girls' kidnapper gets 18 years

A KIDNAPPER who held two schoolgirls hostage for more than three days was jailed for 18 years yesterday.

Yachtsman rescued at sea

A BRITISH yachtsman taking part in the Europe 1 solo transatlantic race was yesterday picked up 700 miles out in the Atlantic during an air sea rescue.

Tube drivers to visit Acas

UNION officials representing drivers threatening a strike on the London Underground will visit the conciliation service Acas tomorrow — but the move looks unlikely to derail Thursday's planned action.

Delayed tourists take off

MORE than 300 tourists flew out to Florida yesterday after a series of safety scares on their jet delayed them for 26 hours.

Apology: La Sainte Union school

APPEARING on June 18 with an article entitled "Blunkett turns heat on school meals" was a photograph of four young girls in school uniform, above a caption which read "Pupils from La Sainte Union school, Highgate, North London, enjoying take-away chips yesterday".

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British Coal 'libelled' over pension fund surplus

THE National Union of Mineworkers went to court yesterday to defend itself against a claim that it libelled the state-owned British Coal Corporation in an article more than four years ago in the Yorkshire Miner.

Animal viruses 'could threaten humans through transplants'

VIRUSES which could incorporate themselves into human genes — possibly during transplant operations from wild animals — could threaten the future of mankind, a leading scientist warned in London yesterday.

What a splendid thing, I say; a soldier's complaint and a five syllable Latin word.

Matthew Norman's hypochondria

G2 page 8

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6 WORLD NEWS

FBI agent puts First Lady in the dock

Martin Walker
in Washington

THE REPUBLICANS believe that they can now place Hillary Clinton at the heart of the latest scandal over the procurement by the White House of confidential FBI files on 407 Republicans. Mrs Clinton will once again be made the issue in congressional hearings to be held this week.

Gary Aldrich, a senior FBI agent who was assigned to the Clinton White House and has since retired, is expected to say that Mrs Clinton "hand-picked" the man who obtained the files — the former nightclub bouncer Craig Livingston — for the job of director of White House personnel security.

He will also testify, citing his own official reports to the FBI, that "FBI management had plenty of warning that elements of security and background investigations were drastically wrong at the Clinton White House".

Mr Livingston, suspended while inquiries continue, will be questioned tomorrow by the House committee on government operations in televised hearings about his

request for the secret files of Republicans and other former White House employees.

He will be joined by a former colleague from the advance teams of a succession of Democratic party campaigns, Anthony Marroca, and a former White House counsel, Bernard Nussbaum.

The Democrats in Congress are ducking for cover on this potentially lethal issue, with its implications of a White House abuse of power. Two Democratic senators, Paul Simon of Illinois and Pat Leahy of Vermont, are demanding that Mr Livingston and Mr Marroca — widely being dubbed "the plumbers" in another echo of the original Watergate scandal — should be sacked.

Hillary takes it in good spirit

HILLARY CLINTON hijacked yesterday about her imaginary conversations with Eleanor Roosevelt, telling a conference on families that the former First Lady had endorsed the get-together.

"Shortly before I arrived I had one of my conversations with Mrs Roosevelt and she thinks this is a terrific idea as well," Mrs Clinton said, drawing laughter.

The White House, fearing embarrassing comparisons with Nancy Reagan's consultations with an astrologer, is portraying Mrs Clinton's discussions with a spiritual adviser as rumormongering for a book. — AP.

The beleaguered President Clinton gained some relief yesterday when the supreme court agreed to hear his appeal against having to appear in court for the sexual harassment suit brought by Paula Jones. The case should be delayed until after the November election.

The Clintons are also hoping that the scandal will blow over during the president's time in Lyon at the G-7 international economic summit later this week and Mrs Clinton's subsequent 10-day tour of eastern Europe. The White House hopes that by the time she gets back the country will be distracted by the Olympic Games.

The Clintons are unlikely to be so lucky. Apart from the

president being subpoenaed to give videotaped evidence in July in the trial of two Arkansas bankers accused of fraudulently funding his 1990 governorship campaign, there are three separate inquiries under way into "Filegate". The independent counsel Kenneth Starr has been formally asked to investigate, and the House and Senate are both holding hearings.

Filegate, as the FBI affair has become known, is dwarfing concern about Whitewater and Travelgate. Many of the 407 FBI files requested were for low-ranking staff, but some were on well known staff or aides from the Reagan era.

The White House is reduced to pleading, in effect, that Mr Livingston and his staff were incompetent to uphold President Clinton's claim of "a bureaucratic snafu". Since Mr Livingston requested only files running from A to C, and had a reputation among White House staff for inflating his own importance, this defence may hold.

Nevertheless, Mr Clinton was "very angry" about the White House's inability to provide satisfactory answers to questions about the files, his spokesman, Mike McCurry, said yesterday.

Democrats lose grip on democracy

Comment

William Safire

ACANCER has been growing on the Clinton presidency. Its locus is the office of the White House counsel, Hillary Clinton brought in her Watergate mentor, Bernard Nussbaum, to run it, along with two of her Rose law firm partners, Vincent Foster and William Kennedy. Under her guidance they brought in a known dirty trickster, Craig Livingston, to head their political internal security. Their central purpose: to protect the Clintons at all costs.

Foster, afflicted with the festering Whitewater files, was the first to crack a suicide. The too-loyal Mr Nussbaum, blocking the FBI from the dead man's office

Democrats lose grip on democracy

Comment

William Safire

files, was soon cut adrift by his clients. William Kennedy, who tried to cover up a patronage grab by using the FBI to smear innocent travel office staffers, quit under a cloud.

That grand Clinton White House counsel tradition is being carried to new depths by Jack ("Tell 'em nuthin'") Quinn. With guilty knowledge of the Clintons' wrongful obtaining and sustained possession of FBI confidential files, Mr Quinn tried to conceal the evidence of abuse under "executive privilege".

Only when threatened with jail for contempt of Congress did the former aide to Vice-President Al Gore hand over a document that led to revelations of political snooping into private lives, which the president tried to kiss off as a "bureaucratic snafu" — Clintonese for "third-rate burglary".

What is known as White-

Democrats lose grip on democracy

Comment

William Safire

water is graft, plain and simple: the local bribery compounded by the use of federal office to obstruct justice.

What is known as Travelgate is the cover-up of the embarrassment at being caught making places for political patrons by abusing the power to prosecute, compounded by lying to a federal agency investigating Mrs Clinton's role.

What does not yet have a name is the requisition of the most intimate details of the lives of potential political targets by the office of the White House counsel.

What do these three scandals have in common besides the centrality of the president and his wife?

The power of the federal government has been used to protect political friends from the law and to pose a threat to punish political opponents. In each case, a conspiracy has been underway in the White House — through concealment of subpoenaed records, perjury, and the use of executive privilege — to prevent this abuse of government power being exposed by the Congress, the press or independent counsel.

Democrats lose grip on democracy

Comment

William Safire

I have just returned from observing the Russian elections. Worried about the closeness of the vote, President Boris Yeltsin fired his most vocal adviser, the head of the KGB, and the bloody-handed defence chief.

He purged his regime of its worst elements, not because he wanted to but because voters at the polls sent him the message that he had to clean up the throw him out.

Kremlins or they would not satisfy them.

If his embrace of the popular Alexander Lebed does not satisfy them, Mr Yeltsin will even bring on board Gregory Yavlinsky and his democratic reformers. Fear of losing brings out his best.

But in America the rising tide of revelations seems only to keep the president high in the polls. The message he gets from public boredom in the face of sustained scandal is plain: "hang tough, murrin." "mistake made", get your partisans in Congress to see no evil, admit no wrongdoing, trust that no indictments come until after November, and don't change a thing.

Confidence in winning brings out his worst.

Democrats lose grip on democracy

Comment

William Safire

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A stone's throw away... Pakistani policemen pelt protesters from the rightwing Jamaat-Islami party with stones in Rawalpindi yesterday. The demonstrators had planned to march on Islamabad for a sit-in outside the office of the prime minister, Benazir Bhutto. At least three people were killed in the clashes

Nigeria defiant as talks begin

Ken Black
Diplomatic Editor

NIGERIA began its first talks with the Commonwealth yesterday since its membership was suspended in November, but there was little sign that it could meet the concerns about human rights and democracy.

The foreign minister, Tom Ikimi, arrived in London after two leading political detainees were freed in his homeland — part of an attempt to assuage mounting international criticism.

He told reporters: "Democracy has already been restored."

The Nigerian team met the action group of seven Commonwealth foreign ministers which was set up at the Auckland summit in November after the execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight other Ogoni activists.

They are from Malaysia, Zimbabwe, Jamaica, Ghana, Britain, New Zealand, South Africa and Canada, and they are bitterly divided about what action to take.

Britain wants the Commonwealth to adopt the limited sanctions imposed by the European Union, and will consider the additional measures that were threatened in April if the military regime of General Abacha failed to enter a dialogue. But it seems unwilling to go much further.

Foreign Office sources said it wanted an "acceleration" of the three-year timetable

given by Gen Abacha for the restoration of civilian rule and a "clear set of commitments on human rights".

Concern about the prospects for an improvement was fuelled earlier this month by the murder in Lagos of Edirat Abiola, wife of Moshood Abiola, the presumed winner of a 1993 presidential election annulled by the military.

Preliminary signs suggest that the Nigerians are not in a conciliatory mood. Lagos's Thisday newspaper reported yesterday that Chief Ikimi to demand the restoration of Commonwealth membership, an end to talks about further sanctions, and support for Gen Abacha's transition to democracy programme.

Chief Ikimi also wants a platform for regular dialogue with the Commonwealth, the paper said.

The United States, Britain and the EU are reluctant to apply economic, and particularly oil, sanctions against Nigeria, and there is little enthusiasm for a proposal to freeze the assets of members of the regime.

The Department of Trade and Industry strongly opposes sanctions, especially as British companies are the largest investors in and exporters to Nigeria.

At its last meeting in April, the ministerial group recommended Commonwealth members to ban arms exports to Nigeria, withdraw military aid, halt military training, ban sporting contacts and downgrade cultural and diplomatic links.

Course of true love ends in Pakistan's high court

Gerald Bourke in Islamabad reports on the religious and legal fallout from a secret wedding

IT HAD the makings of a fairytale match: bright female student and handsome teacher meet, fall in love and marry. But for Saima Waheed and Arshad Ahmad their wedding was the beginning of a nightmare, sparking a heated controversy that has put Pakistan's liberals and hardline Islamists at each others' throats.

The couple met two years ago at a debating contest in Lahore. Saimeh was her school's head girl, and its best public speaker.

The mutual attraction was immediate, but they did not date. Their courtship was restricted to a series of increasingly anguished telephone conversations.

After deciding to marry, the couple agreed that, in accordance with local custom, Arshad's parents should make a formal proposal to hers. But Saimeh's father had other ideas, and arranged to marry her to a wealthy doctor.

So Saimeh married Arshad secretly in late February, and returned immediately to her parents home, hoping to convince them that she had made the right choice.

When her father, a member of a hardline Islamic sect, found out he went to Arshad's home and forced him, allegedly at gunpoint, to surrender the marriage

deeds and agree to a divorce.

Saimeh claims that her father forced her to endorse the divorce papers by beating and drugging her, and then locked her up. She escaped and took refuge in a home for distressed women run by the Independent Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (IHRCP).

When Mr Waheed took legal action to secure custody of his daughter, a court ruled that Saimeh, aged 21, was mature enough to make up her own mind.

But it rejected Arshad's plea that Saimeh should be allowed to live with him, forbade him to see her, and consigned her to another women's home pending the

outcome of her father's application to have the marriage judicially annulled. A subsequent court order allowed Saimeh to return to the IHRCP shelter.

It is now up to the high court to decide whether a Muslim woman can choose her husband. Mr Waheed's lawyers argue that marriage without parental consent undermines the integrity of the family and is therefore un-Islamic and illegal.

Religious lobbies are weighing in heavily on his side. Fundamentalist zealots claim that the IHRCP sanctuary is run by infidels bent on weaning women away from Islam. Some

have ludicrously suggested it is no more than a brothel.

Part of their problem is that Saimeh's defence has been taken on by Asma Jehangir, the IHRCP's chairwoman and a fearless campaigner for the rights of Pakistan's long-suffering women and downtrodden minorities.

Ms Jehangir has long been a target of the country's religious right, and has received death threats since the high court proceedings began in April.

Mullahs flock to each hearing; a deliberate attempt, analysts say, to intimidate the judges. One mullah was arrested after being found in possession of a pistol at a recent session.

Saimeh fears for her life. Several women involved in similar cases have been killed by their families, even though the courts ruled in their favour.

Arshad was arrested three weeks ago and charged with adultery, although lawyers insist that there is no case against him. His family has been in hiding since some members were beaten up.

Pakistani secularists are taking a keen interest in the case. "Islam says a woman cannot give herself in marriage without the consent of her guardian. What can a woman own then, if not even herself?" asked one newspaper columnist.

If the verdict, expected within days, goes against her, Saimeh's next resort will be an appeal to the supreme court. But whatever the judges decide, she and Arshad can expect little peace. They will never be able to resume their relationship.

Protesters killed as riot police break up marchers

Raja Asghar in Islamabad

CLASHES between riot police and opposition Islamic protesters in Rawalpindi near Islamabad, have left at least three people dead and about 70 injured.

The opposition leader, Nawaz Sharif, told parliament that four men were killed when Pakistan's police fired on followers of his fundamentalist Jamaat-Islami party protesting against alleged corruption in prime minister Benazir Bhutto's government and new taxes.

But the information and broadcasting minister, Khalid Ahmad Khairi, told a news conference that three men were killed.

Troops were called in after hours of clashes between police and Jamaat protesters, who had planned to march to Islamabad for a sit-in in front of Ms Bhutto's office.

The interior minister, Naseerullah Babar, later told the national assembly that the troops were withdrawn after law and order was restored and that a judicial inquiry had been ordered.

Witnesses said the police fired tear gas and gunshots at the protesters to stop them assembling at a park in Rawalpindi for the march.

But the chief minister of Punjab province, Mohammad Arif Nakai, told the provincial assembly in Lahore that the police had not fired any shots and the deaths were caused by firing from protesters.

Mr Khairi said up to 30 per cent of about 6,000 protesters had come armed and that the crowd included many Afghan nationalists, a charge denied by Jamaat.

A number of protesters were arrested. — Reuter.

Mugabe twists London's arm

Andrew Moldrum in Harare

ZIMBABWE'S white farming community has attacked under renewed pressure from President Robert Mugabe, who is threatening to seize hundreds of farms unless the British government provides more funds for his stalled programme to redistribute land to poor blacks.

Yesterday the British high commission in Harare responded with a renewed appeal for a conference on land involving all interested Zimbabweans and foreign donors: an idea Mr Mugabe has already described as a possible delaying tactic by London.

Addressing the central committee of his party, the Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front, at the weekend, Mr Mugabe said: "This land was taken from our people by the colonialists and no payment was made for it. Our people were just told to go... This is what we are going to do."

He blamed a lack of British funds for the delays in the resettlement programme, and implied that his government would pay for the white-owned farms only if Britain provided the money.

Mr Mugabe said he had recently told the British government: "We do not have the money to buy back the land, which was not paid for in the first place. We said, if they have the money or aid to give us so that we can pay for the land acquired, then they

should give it to us and we will pay."

He said the Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, had responded with a letter suggesting a "national open meeting on the land acquisition issue, encompassing all interested groups including donor agencies like the World Bank". Mr Mugabe said this might be a delaying tactic.

Since Zimbabwe's independence in 1980, Britain has provided more than \$30 million for the purchase of white-owned land to be resettled by black farmers. Nearly \$27 million of it has been spent so far. But the Mugabe government's 1990 plan to resettle 160,000 black families has fallen far short of its target: only 65,000 families have been resettled on previously white-owned land. Even those resettled, many of those families are not successfully producing crops and remain dependent on government assistance.

In 1992 the Zimbabwean parliament passed the Land Acquisition Act, authorising the government to buy land compulsorily. Two years later it was revealed that the first farms compulsorily purchased had been allocated to cabinet ministers, top civil servants and army generals.

Earlier this month the government imposed a 10 per cent tax on all sales of tobacco crops, which has threatened the viability of tobacco, Zimbabwe's main export earner and biggest source of employment.

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Handwritten text in Urdu script: "بھائی صاحب" (Bhai Sahab)

News in brief

Germany calls off visits to China

GERMANY called off a series of planned official contacts with China yesterday in a row over Beijing's human rights record in Tibet, but said it wanted to cool the diplomatic row before it boiled over.

The construction minister, Klaus Toepfer, and the environment minister, Angela Merkel, cancelled planned visits to China and the Bonn defence ministry said a meeting of senior military officers scheduled to take place in Beijing later this year was now off.

The moves came a day after Beijing, angered by a German parliamentary resolution last week condemning China's invitation for the foreign minister, Klaus Kinkel, to visit next month. A Bonn government spokesman said Chancellor Helmut Kohl viewed Beijing's rebuff with "regret and incomprehension". — Reuters, Bonn.

Troops 'must stay' in Bosnia

THE United Nations secretary-general, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, will urge Britain today to accept that foreign troops must remain in Bosnia after December 20, the date the Nato-led 1-For-peacekeeping force is due to pull out.

Mr Boutros-Ghali's meeting with John Major precedes a gathering of the G7 group of industrialised countries in Lyon, France, later this week. "The secretary-general feels it will be extremely necessary for an international presence to continue after the 1-For mandate expires," a spokesman for Mr Boutros-Ghali said.

The spokesman denied that the UN secretary-general would seek Mr Major's support for his efforts to stay in office. "He is not in campaign mode at the moment," the spokesman said. — Reuters, London.

Particle accelerator in a froth

PHYSICISTS have launched an internal inquiry after an experiment at CERN, the European particle accelerator, was delayed for five days by two empty beer bottles.

A spokeswoman said the bottles, discovered last Wednesday, had probably been discarded by men working on the particle accelerator, which is 17 miles in circumference and buried more than 200ft below the French-Swiss border.

She said the alarm was raised after 2,000 physicists tried in vain for five days to get electron and positron rays to collide in the accelerator. — Alex Dunal Smith, Paris.

Wife appeals to kidnappers

THE wife of one of the four Western tourists held hostage in Kashmir, returning to India after a year, renewed her appeal to their guerrilla captors yesterday.

"It has been a long year for us, and I think that this is true. We are now at the one-year mark, they should let our men go," Jane Schelley, wife of the American hostage Donald Hutchings, said in New Delhi.

Mr Hutchings, along with the Britons Keith Mangan and Paul Wells, was kidnapped by Al-Faraj militants on July 4 1995 while trekking in the Himalayan region. A German, Dirk Hasert, was captured four days later.

Ms Schelley spoke after meeting the home secretary, K. Padmanabhaiah, who has led efforts to win the hostages' freedom. "Unfortunately there have been no positive results," he told her. "As of now we are still groping." — Reuters, New Delhi.

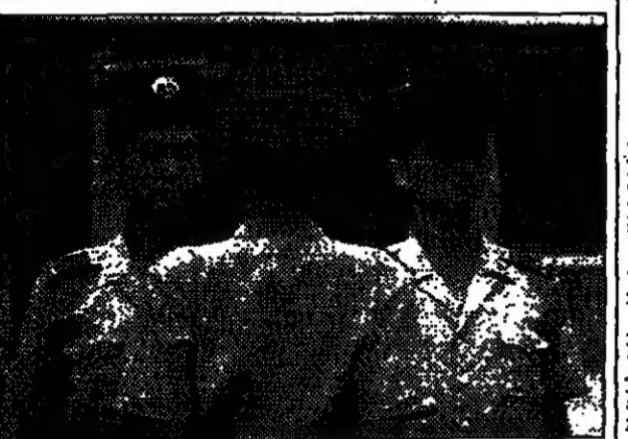
Consul's death investigated

DENMARK and Norway said yesterday they were sending envoys to Burma to seek a full explanation of the death in prison of their shared consul, Leo Nichols, a friend of the democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

Foreign ministry sources in Copenhagen said Denmark's resident ambassador in Thailand would leave for Rangoon "as soon as possible" to study the full circumstances of Nichols' death on Saturday, reportedly of a heart attack.

Norway's chargé d'affaires in Singapore, Anne Thorsmann, went to Burma on Friday to offer support and protection to Ms Suu Kyi, returned yesterday to Singapore to consult with colleagues but was due to fly straight back to Rangoon.

Nichols, a businessman of Burmese and British descent, aged 63, was arrested by the Burmese military authorities in April and jailed for three years for operating telephones and fax machines at his house without permission. — Reuters, Copenhagen.



Toppy turvy... Morning exercises become a little strained for this Chinese soldier (right) in Beijing yesterday as his hat begins to slip. Soldiers' hats were turned upside down to sharpen their senses and refine their posture, a crucial element in the duties they perform. PHOTOGRAPH: JASON REED

British planes bound for Paris

HEEP WARS notwithstanding, France has for the first time invited the Royal Air Force to join the flypast over Paris on Bastille Day.

The gesture reflects President Jacques Chirac's personal admiration for the way Britain's all-professional armed forces have been reorganised since the end of the cold war and, more particularly, the RAF's developing operational links with the French air force.

A joint air planning organisation, for example, has recently been set up at High Wycombe, to prepare for future peacekeeping operations.

The British contribution to the flypast on July 14 will be four Tornados, three vertical take-off Harriers and a VC10 tanker.

But whereas the late President Mitterrand invited Chancellor Helmut Kohl to watch the parade two years ago when German tanks rumbled down the Champs-Élysées in a similar gesture of reconciliation, no senior British politician is attending this year. London will be represented by its new ambassador, Michael Jay.

He plans to make his own point about military co-operation by arriving to take up his post a few days earlier aboard a Royal Navy destroyer at Cherbourg. — David Fairhall, London.

Hikers lifted out of canyon

HUNDREDS of people were evacuated from their homes yesterday and 10 hikers were airlifted out of the Grand Canyon as firefighters battled against forest fires in northern and eastern Arizona.

The fires had burned across nearly 19,000 acres by the morning and windy weather was forecast with gusts up to 25 mph. No injuries or structural damage were reported.

Residents of two suburbs about 12 miles north of Flagstaff were evacuated because of a fire that had spread across more than 10,000 acres. The fire, started by lightning on Thursday, was only 10 per cent contained, officials said yesterday.

Fire crews from across the country helped fight another fire at the Grand Canyon's north rim, which was also started by lightning. It spread to 1,500 acres on Sunday, prompting a helicopter evacuation of the hikers. The main tourist area on the canyon's south rim was unaffected.

Outside the Apache-Sitgreaves national forest in east central Arizona, up to 400 residents of Pinedale were evacuated on Sunday night because a fire threatened their homes. — AP, Flagstaff.

Russia's Communist leader seeks coalition allies as budget deficit worsens and infighting continues

Zyuganov urges crisis pact

David Hearst in Moscow

GENNADY Zyuganov, the Communist leader, called yesterday for a pact between Russia's main political forces, saying the country was on the verge of economic collapse and that only a coalition government could now run it.

To reflect the votes that he and President Boris Yeltsin received in the first round of voting, Mr Zyuganov said that one third of the ministers in his proposed council of national accord should be nominated by him, one third by Mr Yeltsin and one third by the other political parties in parliament.

Mr Zyuganov, who has stopped campaigning for the second round run-off between himself and Mr Yeltsin, said: "Russia is in a serious situation and no single political force is in a dominant position." He then named 14 of his own candidates for a coalition government, and added, significantly, that the Communists had already held talks with 12 serving ministers and 27 vice-ministers.

Mr Zyuganov is trying to woo Alexander Lebed, the recently appointed secretary of the national security council, who appears to be playing the role of vice-president. After Mr Yeltsin sacked three key figures in his security apparatus last week, Mr Lebed said he wanted the security council to have control of the economy as well as national security.

Mr Zyuganov's list was led by Sergai Gladiev, a former head of the Duma's economic committee, and a key member of the Congress of Russian Communities, the party which supported Mr Lebed in the parliamentary elections in December.

One reason why Mr Zyuganov appears to be concentrating on rival politicians rather than his electorate is the fear that the power battle which raged last week in the Kremlin is still continuing. Mr Zyuganov has praised



Fighting talk... In Ukraine an Orthodox priest talks to commandos during a break in field exercises at a military base in Bila Tserkva yesterday. The Church has spread its influence, replacing politruks (political officers) in the Ukrainian army by clergy. PHOTOGRAPH: NIKOLAY TARANENKO

Mr Lebed, but accused the libertarian free-market faction of presidential advisers headed by Anatoli Chubais of acting as a "fifth column" for Western interests. Another explanation is that an economic crash is really coming, and with it the threat

of political strikes and civil unrest in the autumn.

Most economists agree that Russia's state finances are looking bad. Andrei Illarionov, director of the Economic Analysis Institute, said that in the first six months of this year Russia had printed

50,000 billion roubles while the central banks' hard currency reserves had decreased by 43 billion roubles.

He said the budget deficit had worsened dramatically, reaching 9.6 per cent of GDP, and the state debt had increased by \$20 billion.

All this meant that inflation could well take off again in the autumn, threatening the stabilisation programme which is underpinned by a \$10.2 billion loan from the International Monetary Fund.

Meanwhile the remaining liberals continue to be

sharply divided about whom they should support.

A two-day party conference decided to make support for Mr Yeltsin conditional on a series of demands, including a constitutional amendment to limit the executive powers of the president.

Hunt is on for terrorists' backer evicted by Sudan

Kathy Evans on the wealthy backer of Afghanistan's holy war who is on the run after being made homeless

OSAMA BIN LADIN, who organised thousands of Arab volunteers in the Afghan jihad and has been linked to dozens of terrorist incidents, is homeless after being forced to leave his haven in Sudan.

He had been living there for the past three years with his former mujahedin fighters.

According to his spokesman in London, he left Khartoum last month on his own private jet with several wives and children and 20 of his fighters.

Sudanese officials have kept silent about where Mr Bin Ladin has gone, but Arabic language newspapers have reported sightings of him in London, Ethiopia, Somalia and Afghanistan.

His exit from Sudan has sparked an international alert among security agencies. "There isn't one Western government who wouldn't

like to talk to Osama," said a United States intelligence official in Washington.

Mr Bin Ladin's departure followed a meeting in Jeddah between President Omar Bashir of Sudan and King Fahd of Saudi Arabia. Sudan has been trying to improve relations with Arab and Western countries since the United Nations imposed sanctions after its failure to hand over three suspects wanted in connection with last year's attempted assassination of the Egyptian president, Hosni Mubarak.

Sudan was placed on the US state department's list of countries sponsoring terrorism two years ago and has been condemned for sheltering numerous terrorist groups, including those led by Mr Bin Ladin. In its latest report on global terrorism, the state department identified him as "the financier and provider of logistic support to a number of extremist causes".

Stripped of his Saudi citizenship three years ago, Mr Bin Ladin is a member of one of the richest families in Saudi Arabia. His family's prominence in Saudi society qualified him for the job of raising money and volunteers for the holy war in Afghanistan against the Moscow-

backed government of President Mohammad Najibullah.

At the time, the Afghan jihad was supported by the Saudi government. Thousands of Saudis and nationals of other Gulf states were recruited, joining radicals from Egypt, Algeria, Sudan and other Arab countries. Most passed through Mr Bin Ladin's hands at a reception centre in the Pakistani border town of Peshawar.

Later, when the mujahedin took Kabul and the jihad petered out, Arab and Western security circles became concerned that the war against communism had unwittingly created an army of Arab radicals. Many volunteers — dubbed "the Kabulis" — went on to launch violent campaigns against their own governments.

A number were later jailed in the US for their involvement in the World Trade Centre bombing four years ago. Last year the Arab Afghans were said to be behind the bombing of the Egyptian embassy in Islamabad.

Mr Bin Ladin is said to be travelling on a Sudanese passport under another name. Sources close to him say he has several passports.

US security officials say it is possible he has not left Sudan, or has secretly

returned. "We are not crossing Sudan off the list yet," one said.

Arab analysts said he was likely to head for a country torn by civil war, such as Somalia or Afghanistan.

His spokesman in London said he was in danger from groups and governments seeking him. "I'm afraid he might be sold, or handed over to the Americans or Saudis in exchange for money or favours or aid," he said.

Intelligence agencies in Pakistan are said to be hunting for Mr Bin Ladin, calling on their contacts among the Afghan guerrillas.

Britain acted to pre-empt

any request from Mr Bin Ladin for asylum six months ago by telling him that an exclusion order had been issued against him. Yesterday Foreign Office officials denied reports that he had secretly entered Britain.

As well as supporting several radical Muslim causes, Mr Bin Ladin is a leading member of an extremist group opposed to the Saudi royal family called the Advisory and Reformation Committee. In April four men who confessed to bombing a US military office in Riyadh last November said he was behind the attack.

Death report expected to blame Indonesia

Reuters in Canberra and Jakarta

THE Australian government promised yesterday to release a detailed report this week on the death of six Australian-based reporters 21 years ago in the former Portuguese colony of East Timor, annexed shortly afterwards by Indonesia.

The foreign minister, Alexander Downer, told parliament that the report, ordered by the previous Labour government, would be tabled on Thursday.

The Australian consul to East Timor in the early 1960s, James Dunn, said he expected the report to be critical of the Indonesian military, which some blame for the deaths.

The report was ordered in November after statements by former East Timorese soldiers, now living in Australia, claiming that five of the journalists were murdered by Indonesian troops in fighting preceding Jakarta's 1975 invasion of the territory.

Jakarta claims that the men were killed in crossfire between East Timorese factions.

Meanwhile, Indonesia's politically powerful military said yesterday that it no longer recognised Megawati Sukarnoputri as the leader of the opposition Indonesian Democratic Party (PDI).

A rebel faction of the PDI deposed Ms Megawati and elected the deputy parliamentary speaker, Surjadi, party leader at a congress in the North Sumatran city of Medan last week.

Ms Megawati, daughter of the late president Sukarno, the country's founder, told more than 3,000 supporters on Sunday that the rebel congress was not legal and she would not leave the party's headquarters in Jakarta.

But the interior minister, Yogie Suardi Memet, said the congress was legal and the government backed Surjadi. The armed forces' socio-political affairs chief, Lieutenant-General Syarwan Hamid, told reporters: "The government has formally recognised

the outcome of the Medan congress... so it will not recognise any rivals. If the government sticks to its stance, so will the armed forces."

A lawyer from the Legal Aid Institute said yesterday that Ms Megawati's PDI planned to sue the interior minister for endorsing the congress and the police for giving permission to hold it.

Analysts believe that the government and the military backed the rival congress because they feared that Ms Megawati might attract votes in the general election at the expense of the ruling Golkar party, and perhaps stand against President Suharto in the presidential election.

Britain discussed defence co-operation with Indonesia yesterday and said it hoped to sell helicopters to Jakarta.

The Defence Secretary, Michael Portillo, said after meeting President Suharto: "We are very keen, obviously, to be able to supply equipment to the Indonesian armed forces, but also to participate with Indonesian industry."

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Eating humble beef

John Major retreats from an unwinnable war

FIELD MARSHAL von Moltke asked: "But where are the captured guns?" as the Kaiser tried to delude Berliners about the progress of the war by holding yet another victory parade along Unter den Linden in late 1914. If Moltke had been sitting in the gallery of the House of Commons yesterday, he would have had to ask a similarly awkward question. John Major had plenty to say about the Florence summit when he reported to MPs, but the more he said the clearer it became that his claims of victory in the beef war were every bit as hollow as those of the German general on the western front.

In the end the Government was more anxious to finish the beef war than to win it. They went to war in May because other states refused to agree a timetable for the relaxation of the beef export ban. When war was declared, Downing Street and a succession of ministers insisted that the twin aims were the lifting of the ban on derivatives and the working out of a timetable for the lifting of the overall ban. The first was achieved on June 10, but the second has not been achieved at all. Yesterday Mr Major tried to pretend that his aim all along had been the acceptance of the framework plan. That is simply untrue. The deal that Mr Major struck in Florence falls short of the goal he repeatedly set for himself. Mr Major has captured no guns.

And don't his MPs know it. Neither Moltke nor anyone else watching from the gallery could ever have seen as glum a band of victors as marched home from the fray this weekend. Yesterday was about making the best of a bad job. Mr Major produced a worthy attempt to show that his policy had worked. Tony Blair and Paddy Ashdown then together proved that those claims were bogus. There is no fixed date for the sale of British beef in the European market. There is no guaran-

tee that the completion by Britain of control measures against BSE will unlock that market. The committee of vets which will consider the position in the autumn is the same committee of vets which caused all the trouble for Britain in the first place. The promise to allow exports to third countries is only a pledge by the Italian presidency, not a commitment by the Council of Ministers. The compensation package will cost Britain a net £2 billion. Every one of the Opposition accusations was unanswerable and unanswered.

Barely a single Conservative backbencher raised any objection. They tried to make out that this was the terrific result that they had expected when they marched out to war a month ago. But their hearts weren't in it any longer. There was no disguising the disjunction between aims and outcome. When this started, Florence was going to be the moment when Britain faced down its partners. But in the end the Government has given up.

It was left to George Walden, the demob-unhappy Conservative backbencher, to tell the truth his colleagues dared not admit: that the result for Britain has been lost prestige, lost money and lost cattle. Mr Walden, rightly, went further. It was, he said, a mistaken policy, into which the Government (and to some extent the Opposition) were driven by the petty chauvinism of the tabloid press. Mr Walden is right, and the political world should not forget why. The beef war was the logical consequence of the Euro-hating mood fermented all year by the press and the Conservative right. The retreat from Florence was in turn the inevitable outcome of the war. The Eurosceptics sat quietly yesterday, as well they should have done. This was their war. It was unwinnable and undesirable. Their strategy has been weighed in the balance and found wanting.

The cheque book and the NHS

Tony Blair's plans are sensible — but will need more money

AFTER last week's grown-up debate about health, yesterday was back to the apocalypse. The two visions of the NHS could not have been more different: one from a professional, the other from a politician. But can you identify the authors? Last week health service managers heard that there was not a Tory plot to privatise the NHS; that it was "not correct to say that everything that has happened over the past 16 years has been wrong"; that a further organisational upheaval would be unhelpful. Yesterday the opening day of the British Medical Association heard about a sinking Titanic, dissembling efficiency indices, an NHS loaded down by a doctrine of despair: rationing. Ironically, it was the Leader of the Opposition who was ready to concede that some changes introduced by the Conservatives had improved the NHS — and the retiring leader of the BMA, who was still fighting battles that ended five years ago.

Tony Blair's speech was sensible and shrewd. There is no point in trying to fool a professional audience. By refusing to soup up the problems — a temptation which his shadow Health Secretary is still unable to resist — he earned the respect of a group of professionals who will play a key part in determining the public popularity of any future Labour government. But Dr Sandy Macara's address to the BMA was misguided. Leaders are meant to lead. Banging drums and demanding an extra £5 billion for health is pure populism

which will not win any credibility with the people with whom the BMA has to negotiate: ministers and the NHS executive.

Underfunding is a serious issue for the NHS. Like the two other fundamental problems — rationing and the withdrawal of continuing nursing care — it was left untouched by the Government's restructuring. Labour has a new idea for rationing: building up from the bottom a list of treatments to which all individuals are entitled, rather than the top-down approach of the Royal College of Physicians, which has called for a national council for health care priorities, which would monitor what is happening and provide guidelines on effective treatment. Both ideas need testing. But neither resolves the underfunding problem. Obviously some extra money can be "saved" from reducing the threefold increase in administrative costs generated by the Government's internal market, but Tony Blair was right to concede that this would not bridge the gap. The stark choice facing the NHS was succinctly set out by Labour's leader: a scaled down service under which people increasingly reach for their cheque books to pay for private cover; or a modernised service providing the "quickest and best" treatment. He held out hope of extra cash. The task now is to transform his "hope" into an unequivocal commitment: not £5 billion but something substantial. Without it, his one-nation NHS vision will never be realised.

Let them eat goose

Packaged birds become a parable for our time

LET THE LONG contention cease, wrote Matthew Arnold. Geese are swans, and swans are geese. But not in Clarkstown, New York State, whose citizens have been driven to desperation by a plague of Canada geese who "snap at picnickers" and deposit half a pound of droppings per bird per day. There may be nothing finer than a flight of Canada geese in V-formation but these ones remain on land, turning ball parks into no-play areas. Ever since Alfred Hitchcock the US has had mixed feelings about birds. Toz Lehrer advocated poisoning pigeons in the park. World War III was once nearly started by a flock of Canada geese translated by radar into a flight of Soviet missiles.

The real threat remains not an excess of birds but the many risks to their survival. In March ten countries signed the Brisbane Initiative which seeks to protect the great flyway from the Arctic

Circle down to southern New Zealand. Here in Europe, however, the World Wildlife Fund reports that only France, Spain, Britain and Sweden have begun to implement EU habitat-protection measures for migratory birds.

None of this is likely to move the people of Clarkstown. Previous efforts to budge resident populations of Canada geese in North America have been singularly unsuccessful. A few truckloads of them were once removed from a Long Island golf course and driven to Maine. They were back on the fairway before the trucks got home. Clarkstown has now found a solution but it raises more questions than it answers. The birds are shipped to a processing plant, ground up and sent back in frozen packages — to be distributed to the poor. As a comment on our times this offers several layers for deconstruction, going a good deal deeper than the mess which it seeks to avoid.



Letters to the Editor

Lighting up time runs out of puff

MAY I suggest that in future your interviewees write "puffing on cigarettes," rather than "putting on Marlboros" (Curse lock, June 20, but merely the most recent example of a persistent trait). Nobody needs to know what brand of tobacco Ms Getty smokes, but we all know that smoking is closely linked with fashion. For example, Benson & Hedges are apparently the best-selling cigarettes in the UK, yet after four years at university I have never witnessed anybody smoke anything other than Marlboro or Marlboro Lights.

If (as the tobacco giants claim) cigarette adverts are only to persuade smokers to switch brands, then perhaps you should consider stopping doing out free publicity. Matthew Tempest, 103 Queen Alexandra Mansions, Judd Street, London WC1.

magazines, whose pages seem full of such pictures, showing the rich and famous — those whom teenagers look up to — sucking in the foul and harmful smoke of a cigarette. Alan Gillman, 4 Fisher Road, Bishops Cleeve, Leamington Spa, Warwick CV38 0RE.

WE ARE delighted that Tony Blair has committed the Labour Party to a ban on tobacco advertising. I have never witnessed anybody smoke anything other than Marlboro or Marlboro Lights.

However, it is a pity that we will have to wait for a change of government before this crucial measure to protect our children's health is introduced. About 450 children start smoking every day and research has shown that cigarette advertising encourages them both to start and to carry on with their habit. The Department of Health's chief economic adviser's report concluded that bans on tobacco advertising reduce

tobacco consumption yet the Government still refuses to take action. A ban is needed immediately to stop yet more children falling victim to the tobacco industry's propaganda. Pamela Furness, Chief executive, Action on Smoking and Health, 12-15 Dartmouth Street, London SW1H 9BL.

I WAS disgusted to see that the Guardian was prepared to carry an advert for Philip Morris (June 18), if "hard" drugs were legalised would you carry adverts for their manufacturers arguing that their products were no more harmful than eating fatty foods?

To make matters worse the advert also contained an attack on "political correctness." This was typical of right-wing propaganda which tries to persuade us that any campaign against vested interests is motivated by some other than concern or intelligence. Those of us who campaign against the damage done by incandescent smokers and multi-nationals do so because we are sick of the immediate effects of passive

smoking, not because we are neurotic ultra-left loonies. Helen Miller, 13 Keivinside Terrace South, Glasgow G20 6DW.

THE full page ad from Philip Morris (Guardian, June 18) strains the bounds of credibility. The information presented excludes some of the main points about the dangers of passive smoking. The ad ignores the vast body of research which documents the dangers of passive smoking to health — and this includes not just increases in lung cancer but problems ranging from increased levels of asthma and bronchitis to increases in cot deaths (SIDS) of children of mothers who smoke. The greatest risk from smoking is, of course, not cancer but coronary heart disease.

We should be asking why are they running this European-wide campaign to convince us of the safety of secondary tobacco smoke? Could it have anything to do with the falling consumption of cigarettes in Europe? The debate should be one of public health and not consumption or free market economics. Martin Caraher, Principal lecturer, health and health promotion, Thames Valley University, 32-38 Uxbridge Road, Ealing, London W5 2BS.

DO NOT enjoy sitting in a public place opposite someone eating biscuits. But they do not (usually) blow crumbs in my face. Arthur Davis, 14 Queens Gate Gardens, London SW7 5LY.

The sage of extremes

ARE there two Eric Hobsbawms? One argues in your pages (if the truth be told, June 20) that "left intellectuals" who do not want to be "paleolithic sectarian survivors" must accept the basic contours of the "neo-revisionist" policies pursued by Tony Blair, aiming "to regulate and socialise the wealth creating... dynamism of capitalism, not replace it." The other published The Age of Extremes just two years ago, which ended by highlighting how old attempts to regulate the system did not work any more and insisting that we face an ever more chaotic and violent world in which liberal democratic nostrums are likely to prove futile.

It is a conclusion that gets the wholehearted support of those of us who see the only hope as through "replacing capitalism," even if this does lead to our being denounced as "paleolithic sectarian survivors." Chris Harman, 43 Lancescourt, London N1 5TE.

HASNT Tony Blair already thrown down a gauntlet to intellectuals in his hazy vision of "Social-ism" — a society of individuals, families and groups exercising rights and responsibilities to each other and society, realising their aspirations and "backed and supported by the institutions of the state." And what about Gordon Brown's "well-fare-to-work" notion of using public resources to help people into productive and active work, rather than sustaining dependency.

These may be only platitudes, but they may be more. To investigate whether they could be more, requires an intellectual project which "left intellectuals" have signally failed to undertake over the last 30 years — to describe, analyse and proscribe a modern version of the public sector in a market economy — the counterpart of the modern private sector corporation and the successor to the state public corporation and the classic post war local and national bureaucracy.

The Conservative version of the modern public sector is to privatise it. But what is the alternative? How can it be transformed from a social controller to a social and economic "facilitator" for civil society?

Ample scope for intellectuals to theorise, to show how it could be done, or why it can't — what are we waiting for? Dr Andrew Broadbent, 5 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9SN.

Bush war

MATTHEW Engel's excellent feature on the uneasy future of the BBC World Service (Bush whacked, June 20) should set alarm bells ringing at Westminster and Whitehall. Parliamentary grant-in-aid funds the World Service and most MPs appreciate its enormous contribution to bolstering Britain's standing overseas.

Sadly, the present BBC management seem to care little either for Bush House's reputation or its integrity. Under the Birt proposals, vernacular language service producers are to be divorced from their English language colleagues, the World Service's managing director — who used to report directly to the Director General — is now simply to be an executive of Worldwide, the BBC's corporate overseas marketing arm, the indispensable overseas transmitters are to be privatised and the skilled engineering scheduling staff moved out of Bush House. This is downsizing and asset-stripping with a vengeance.

Does the Foreign Office understand the implications? If so, there has been no comment. But if the managing director of the World Service was not even consulted and given only one day's advance notice of the public announcement, perhaps the Foreign Office read about it in the papers. Were the BBC's governors, who represent the public interest, fully briefed, and was the World Service's managing director allowed eventually to warn them of the likely consequences of the new order?

John Birt's BBC talks a great deal about transparency, consultation and public accountability. Admirable qualities, certainly, but now totally ignored. Christopher Bell, World Service deputy managing director, 1983-89, Shire Lane, Chorleywood, Hertfordshire WD3 5NH.

Terribly, terribly British

YOUR coverage of Euro 96 reveals that the Guardian, like the rest of the English media, has deep Little Englander prejudices. Matthew Engel (Land of hope and glory? June 23) talks about England's World Cup performances and British politics; what about how British has been in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland?

The Guardian guide to "how our sporting heroes cheered and depressed us" gives us the highs of England in 1966 and lows of England in 1960 and 1970 at football and for a little diversity, England at cricket: no mention of Scottish highs and lows.

Are you really surprised that many Scots, Welsh and Irish cheer on your opponents in the balance, June 19). This post-imperial twist from Whitehall appears to be aimed precisely at preventing the treaty from taking effect.

India is refusing to sign up for the CTBT until the countries with nuclear weapons agree a date for eliminating nuclear weapons. In an imaginative response the Government, now joined by the other nuclear powers, is insisting that the CTBT should never become effective ("enter into force" in the jargon) until India, Pakistan and Israel have all joined the treaty. Whitehall argues that this will put pressure on India to sign. Observers fear that the log jam over nuclear disarmament will provide all concerned with a perfect excuse for avoiding a nuclear test ban to become a dead letter.

Trickle down

YOUR house at the weekend reduced our supply to the Yorkshire Water area I telephoned on Saturday morning to tell them of the problem. When the men arrived to deal with it on Monday morning I said I would have expected more prompt attention.

"What do you expect," came the cheerful reply. "There's been football on all weekend, hasn't there?" (Dr) Hugh L. Porteous, 116 Totley Brook Road, Sheffield S17 3QU.

Letters to the Editor may be faxed on 0171 837 4530 or sent by post to 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER, and by email to letters@guardian.co.uk. We regret we cannot acknowledge receipt of letters.

A Country Diary

CHEESHIRE: It was the plight of the common whitethroat in 1993 that first alerted European ornithologists to the disastrous drought in the Sahel region south of the Sahara, where our birds spend their winter months. In the spring of that year only 25 per cent returned to the UK to breed and the population has struggled to recover ever since.

This year they have returned to the valley in encouraging numbers and as I walked across the broad sloping meadow towards the thick sarn woods I found myself within earshot of three birds in full song. The energetic, scratchy warble was unmistakable as I watched one individual perform its short, dancing song-flight several times, bouncing as though it were attached to a piece of elastic. It finally dropped deep into the hawthorn hedge above a large bed of nettles where it probably had its nest — one of its old country names is "nettle creeper". In the wood bird song had died

J M THOMPSON

Handwritten note: 20/12/150

Diary

Matthew Norman

FROM the Column That Supports Our Boys (Liarious catchphrase: "Krant of the tournament you go, mein Herr...") comes this statement on the eve of the semi-final with Germany, the Diary dissociates itself from any meaty-mouthed, pink-talk of appeasement to be found elsewhere in the Guardian. Captain Mainwaring wouldn't tolerate it, and nor would Vera Lynn. So then, taking care not to overdo the war allegory, and pausing only for a nourishing mouthful of powdered egg, we come to our Book of the Week - Biggles Defies The Swastika. With "his jaw set in true Prussian fashion", squadron leader James Bigglesworth has joined the Gestapo, escaping certain doom only by steering his plane and flying to neutral territory. There, however, he learns that his pal Ginger has flown off to rescue him. "When he finds you're not at Boda," says Ginger, "he may be able to grab the machine and fly here." Biggles is sorted. "Suffering crocodiles" is he daft enough to think that the Boche leave their machines lying about for anybody to pick up? When Biggles concedes his inaction, Ginger reluctantly accepts it. "Okay," agrees Ginger. "But I'm bound to say it sounds a sticky business to me," he added grimly. "All war is sticky business," Biggles reminded him. It is a reminder upon which Lord Haw-Haw every where might do well to reflect.

N O lily-livered appeaser himself, Richard Littlejohn nonetheless has a soul. "Grown men wept," he writes of Stuart Pearce's penalty. "I was one of them, even though I tried to pretend it was my fever. It matters." Suffering crocodiles (tears)!!

T HE Diary is also moved to weeping - in this case, by the saintly lack of self-regard of Mandy Mandelson MP. Interviewed on TV by Andrew Rawnsley, Mandy assured us that he and Gordon Brown's great friends (Gordon's jokes about him were "a very effective way of putting aside all the gossip and tittle-tattle"). And yet, even more impressive than the deadpan wit, it was his utter lack of self-regard that was so moving. "I'm perfectly honest, Andrew," he said, "at the end of the day, I don't really care what people say or write about me." How true; how very, very true. . . No one is less inclined to complain to an editor. "I think it might surprise you to know," he added, "that I'm not personally ambitious. . . I'm not in politics for self-promotion." There really are no words.

A NOTHER man about whom Gordon Brown tells jokes is Scottish FA boss Jim Farry (the recently deceased, to Saddam Hussein). Mr Farry, whom we met ostracising a paper for printing a picture of him looking glum, is now being sued for unfair dismissal by an SFA secretary sacked while on sick leave. "We were blissfully unaware that she was pregnant," said Mr Farry, questioned about her symptoms of abdominal pain and sickness before luncheon. "I also had that this morning, and I am not pregnant."

WE are saddened by an item in Andrew Neil's Daily Mail column. "I didn't think Strasbourg was the place for prostitutes," he said to my taxi driver as he took me back to my hotel after a Euro-edition of BBC's *Midnight Hour*. "I wrote the Voice of Controversy." I wonder if they can claim the girls on expenses? Andrew, Andrew, Andrew. These are not the men we wish to hear from one for whom we have unsuccessfully sought a wife. Are you trying to break my mother's heart?

L EGA L problems threaten Vaseline, a gay club which meets on alternate Saturdays in north London. Multinational Uniliver, that splendid lubricant's maker, has sent threatening legal letters concerning breach of copyright. "They could have turned a blind eye," says John Goulding. Considering we're a gay club, they should have looked on it as free advertising.



Running scared of the tabloids

Commentary Hugo Young

I F Robin Cook becomes Foreign Secretary, he will be instantly engulfed by the power of the media. It will be the same for Donald Dewar, should Tony Blair decide on consociationalism rather than abolition of the Foreign Office, and shift Mr Cook to be constitution-reform overlord at the Home Office. Anyone who becomes Labour's Foreign Secretary on May 1 1997, still the best bet date, knows he will be the front man for the handover of Hong Kong to China two months later. In particular, as the tyrants roll in, his will be the soundbite to account for Martin Lee and other Hong Kong democrats who chain themselves to the parliament building in protest against British perfidy for which he is in no way responsible. Labour is getting ready, even a year ahead.

This no-win hypothesis is the kind of thing Douglas Hurd alluded to yesterday when deploring how ministers have to "dret infinitely

about the media". But not just ministers. The media dominate the lives of every senior politician I know in every party. And not just television. These days, television, though no less preoccupying, seems bromidic and manipulable, with a conscience, and a licence-fee, to appeal to. The press, by contrast, has never been more significant. And here the treacherous friend seems to exert special influence, as witness John Major's despairing lunge after the favour of the Tory press, or Michael Howard's donation of the Home Office to the editor of the Daily Mail. Pre-empting the wrath of Mr Deere has become the governing obsession of ministers, and the measure of their cowardice. Yet in this Gresham's market-place, where the bad is usually prelude to the worse, the fealty paid by Labour is still more damaging.

As treated by Labour, the press, tabloid and other, is a potent enemy of truth. It has become the reason for silence, rather than the agent of communication. Ask a shadow minister why policy is hedged about with infinite imprecision, and the answer invariably relates to the wicked distortions that would otherwise be applied to it by the liars of Wapping or the Dogs, whose defence when pushed is the same deflecting

smirk they were bringing to the noxious anti-German sewage that was their contribution this weekend to Euro 96. "Just a bit of fun," said the editor of the Mirror.

Not all Labour's hesitations can be put down to the miserable power of bad journalism. Yesterday's statement from Chris Smith, Getting Welfare to Work, is better than average: the description of a more humane and positive welfare regime, thoughtful and well-meaning, but with certain holes at the centre, notably concerning the Jobseekers' Allowance, which speak for the deep ambivalence of party thinking. Elsewhere, notably on justice and immigration, long desuetude has perhaps made libertarian utterance incapable of expression. Here, fear of press reaction is no longer the sole credible alibi for reactionary instincts that have captured the party's nervous-system.

All the same, fear of the press has much to answer for. The pre-emptive cringe makes a decent living for scores of spin-doctors paid to shape it. From the minimum wage to the tartan tax, from promises to spend on schools to hospitals to promises of higher tax on persons of great wealth, certainties are blurred and options carefully left open. Reticence and minimalism are the favoured modes. Although some of this reflects genuine indecision,

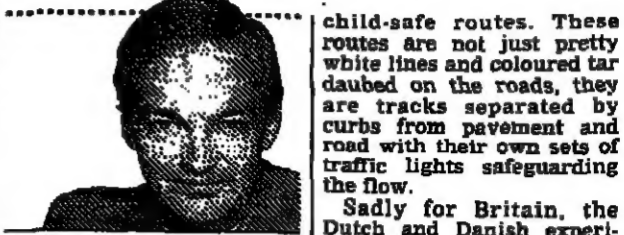
it is attributable to a kind of blackmail relationship, whereby the leadership allows itself to be held hostage by inordinate fear of papers it believes have the power to defeat it. Rather than launch some futile flailing against editors who haven't the smallest concern to change this, the Labour Party should consider the case against such subservience to its enemies. First, it exaggerates their influence. If unprincipled, bullying, hubristic tabloid editors are now more influential than they have ever been, this is because politicians have allowed them to become so. A weak government has sub-contracted large slices of its judgment to a coterie of journalists whose marketplace success it mistakes for a true reflection of the popular mood. The cycle of illusion, by which newspapers claim and thereby gain grotesque and improper impor-

tance, can be broken by strong politicians. Douglas Hurd showed that when he was Home Secretary, and Tony Blair, to his credit, is showing it over Europe. For the rest, sitting on the prospect of a big majority, Labour is doing itself far less than justice by behaving as though it may not get one at all.

Second, if evidence were needed for the frailty of the cycle of illusion, it is to be found in the dubious nature of the press's claims in the first place. The case for Labour's apprehension is not axiomatic. It is possible to assemble, as Martin Linton carefully did, a plausible case that the Sun swung a tight election the Tories' way in 1992. Deeper public attitudes are another matter. Again consider Europe. For two months of beef-war, the mass of British papers delivered daily blasts of Euro-phobia into the national mind. Neither ministers nor the Opposition felt it prudent to challenge this in similar terms. Yet the campaign proved not the war of the press but the indifference of the people. Some polls have shown minor shifts. But Gallup asked whether a government which shut down all further European integration would increase the Tory vote, and 77 per cent said it would either make them less likely to vote Tory or would make no difference.

The third factor is the most suggestive. Fealty amounts to an enormous loss of opportunity. The neurotic caution thus induced may well be reduced to a mere substance. Worse, it is part of the reason why the Labour Party so singularly fails to inspire. There are other reasons too. But liberation from media thrall would be an escape route for people, by tabloids, but do not want them to supersede elected democrats. They are officious and detestable, a tribute not to their own insight but to the bottomless well of British masochism. Their editors, never forget, have far less serious interest in the real world than do the politicians who have to make a fist of governing it. What the country needs is a party willing to explode their pretensions and fly free: New Labour indeed.

Pedal power on the school run



Jon Snow

EVERY morning, 12-year-old Luke Watts sets out on his bicycle to make the three-mile journey from his home to Moseley School in Birmingham. He is one of only eight children amongst the school's 1,300 pupils who regularly risk the journey. Last year he was knocked off his bike by a car, but his injuries - to his head and left leg - were not serious enough to allow him to join the statistics of some 3,500 children who were either killed or seriously injured on their bikes.

It is not the child molester who tyrannizes child cyclists - it prevents them from making independent journeys to and from school, but the car. Parental fear centres on death at the hand of the driver, not disappearance at the whim of the abuser. So that whilst 90 per cent of our children own a bicycle, only 2 per cent use it to get to school.

Dr Meyer Hillman's research at the Policy Studies Institute reveals that over the past 20 years in Britain the proportion of 7-8-year-olds allowed to make independent journeys to school has fallen from 80 per cent to 10 per cent. The consequences are expressed in the polluting, crawling madness that is urban and suburban school-time rush-hour.

The consequences are also expressed in fatter, unfit children who live in fear of roads and traffic, and whose basic human right of freedom of movement is seriously curtailed by the interface between their homes and schools and the motor car. Our society has responded by trying to withdraw the child from the threat of traffic. Almost nowhere in Britain has the response been to withdraw the threat of traffic from the child. That's why this neutral, non-aligned correspondent is putting his shoulder to the wheel in support of a group called Sustrans and the campaign they launch today to provide "Safe Routes to Schools".

In Holland over half the journeys to school are made by bike; in Denmark the figure is more than two thirds. It was not always so. Denmark has had a 20-year strategy to bring this about. Danish education authorities were forced by law to ensure the provision of

child-safe routes. These routes are not just pretty white lines and coloured tar daubed on the roads, they are tracks separated by curbs from pavement and road with their own sets of traffic lights safeguarding the way. Sadly for Britain, the Dutch and Danish experience rests upon the great British hatred of strategic planning. In any case many decision makers here regard these northern Europeans as rather odd people living on flat lands rescued from the sea.

Do they really have anything to tell this sophisticated billy member of the O7 industrialised nations? What they have to tell us is that if you compel the authorities to provide safe cycling for children, the entire population benefits. Not only is car-use reduced and rendered more manageable, but the death and injury rate of children falls. Adults, too, begin to trust urban cycling more for themselves, and children who start a life of dependence upon the bicycle continue it into their working lives. One central benefit rarely even gets discussed. A recent survey of children in the relatively safe market-town of Bury St Edmunds revealed that less than 1 in 20 children take even the minimum regular exercise to maintain basic fitness. Yet in the age of the computer/TV couch-potato, the technology of the bicycle too is evolving fast enough to ensure that virtually every child still wants one.



Family loyalties

Today's education white paper and Labour's reaction to it are coloured by the experience of the leading players, argues John Carvel. This is their story

T ODAY'S white paper on the future shape of secondary schools is a tale of five families. It corroborates an extraordinary revelation yesterday from John Major's older sister that he has "blacked out" large parts of his childhood, allowing him to forget his bitter personal experiences of a selective education. His amnesia made it possible for him to pursue the goal of restoring the grammar schools, but he could not go all the way. The white paper is a compromise because he could not make Gillian Shephard, his education secretary, suppress her own family memories of loyalty to the

A coarse and demented newspaper

Matthew Engel rebukes the Daily Mirror for its second-world-war-style German-baiting edition yesterday

FOURTEEN summers ago, in the midst of the Falklands War, the Sun was fomenting hatred against Argentina. The Daily Mirror called the Sun a "coarse and demented newspaper" and quite right too. Among the headlines and captions on the first three pages of yesterday's Mirror were "Achtung! Surrender!" "Mirror declares football war on Germany." "The Mirror Invades Berlin". and "Fifthy Hum" plus, of course, the expected collection of cod-Texnic phrases, stale jokes about sun-loungers and even staler puns on the word "Herr". The tone throughout was that this match was not a rerun of the World Cup Final but of the second world war. Maybe it was intended to be funny. Only the humourless could believe that. It was coarse and demented journalism. Britain has not been

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10 OBITUARIES

Walter Guevara Arze

Reformer who fired a revolt

WALTER Guevara Arze, who has died aged 84, was one of the great generation of Bolivian reformers who forged the 1952 revolution...

Arze was a liberal lawyer from the town of Cochabamba. Before the revolution he was one of the intellectual leaders of the revolutionary movement...

The revolution in Bolivia, one of the poorest Latin American countries, had been brewing since the disastrous Chaco War between Bolivia and Paraguay in the 1920s...

Arguing that in Bolivia an orthodox socialist revolution was out of the question, Arze advocated a national revolution...

quired a civilian, constitutional, facade, and Arze signed up with it. This was the regime that had to outpace Che Guevara's Cuban-backed guerrillas.

After a chaotic period in which progressive nationalist generals came to the fore, General Hugo Banzer's 1971 coup d'état put a stop to what many people saw as anarchy.

For a while Arze was Banzer's United Nations ambassador but the opposition at home was so fierce that his party pulled out of Banzer's government and Arze retired in exile to Paraguay.

When Banzer called elections in July 1978, Arze allied again with Paz, attempting to become president. But he still had an electoral hold on parts of the country...

Arze was caught between a leftwing out for revenge and a rightwing military terrified that it would be held to account

MNR in disgust to found the Partido Auténtico Revolucionario (PAR), and ran the 1980 elections. He secured only 14 per cent of the vote.

Arze had considerable peasant support when campaigning against the MNR's bureaucratic and anti-democratic tendencies but his rightwing programme alienated the unions...

When a military coup took place against Victor Paz in November 1984, few people bothered to defend the old regime. Two years later, after a period of savage repression, General René Barrientos's military dictatorship ac-



Walter Arze... lacked the stamina and the charisma to stay at the top

several hundred people were killed.

Arze's career showed the dramatic events and an air of smooth authority. This made him someone to be reckoned with among the young, articulate revolutionaries of the 1940s...

Richard Gott Hugo Estenssoro writes: Walter Guevara Arze cut an impressive figure that, under the right circumstances, could have been mistaken for that of a Mongol chieftain.

Although at ease with the sly wit of his native Cochabamba, he had a commanding presence and an air of smooth authority.

It was typical that Arze, who was truly acquainted with Marx while the rest read mostly Leninist or Trotskyist tracts, became the head of the MNR "right".

Walter Guevara Arze, politician, born March 11, 1912; died June 20, 1996

Thomas Kuhn

Science in its social context

THE WORK of Thomas Kuhn on the "structure of scientific revolutions" made him one of the most influential scholars in modern history.



Kuhn... a major influence

Kuhn, who has died aged 73, was the son of an industrial engineer. As a Harvard graduate student he was approached by the distinguished chemist James Bryant Conant...

Kuhn, who has died aged 73, was the son of an industrial engineer. As a Harvard graduate student he was approached by the distinguished chemist James Bryant Conant, president of Harvard University...

Kuhn later wrote that until that time "I had never read an old document in science". Whilst searching for material to help explain Newtonian mechanics to his students, he turned to a copy of Aristotle's Physics.

Kuhn's thesis was that the acquisition of scientific knowledge is not a steady process of accumulation through trial and error, motivated as Karl Popper had suggested...

At weekends he and his wife escaped to their Surrey home to work in their large and beautiful garden. He was extremely knowledgeable about horticulture and passed on hints to us during coffee breaks at Lambeth.

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Thomas Samuel Kuhn, philosopher of science, born July 18, 1922; died June 17, 1996

ture of the existing order, so creating a new paradigm constructed around the requirements of the new order.

To truly understand the nature of a particular scientific claim, one must first learn to understand the context of its creation. The failure to regard the history of science in such terms was Kuhn's view.

The impact was both immediate and profound. Kuhn had challenged not only the ways in which the natural sciences and its practitioners saw themselves, it also devastated the ideological structure of the traditionally "positivist" human sciences.

Yet, despite the provocative nature of Kuhn's work, he was a deeply conservative figure who often expressed unease at the extent of his influence.

He is survived by his wife, Jehane, and three children.

Tim Rogers Thomas Samuel Kuhn, philosopher of science, born July 18, 1922; died June 17, 1996

Lord Tweedsmuir

A Scot of the Arctic

THE second Lord Tweedsmuir, who has died aged 84, inherited the title from his father, the master story-teller John Buchan, and his early years would have fitted well into an adventure novel.

It was a setting for which Eton and his father's old Oxford college, Brasenose, (where he took a fourth in history) had scarcely prepared him.

Culturally and therapeutically, Canada offered a complete contrast. Johnnie Buchan entered the service of the Hudson's Bay Company for three years and spent the winter of 1938-39 with the eskimos of Baffin Land in the Canadian Arctic.

On the outbreak of war, Lord Tweedsmuir signed Canada's declaration of war on behalf of the King while his son enlisted in the Governor General's Footguards who were dispatched to Britain in 1939.

Thomas de Torquemada: Give me 10 minutes with the chicken and I'll find out Oliver North. National Security was at stake. B F Skinner: Because the

ghostly, hideous disease of leprosy which was spread over the entire territory... the cattle owning-tribes with whom I did my short spell of service herded cattle which were scrawny, useless beasts.

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Lord Tweedsmuir... life with the eskimos

He fought in Italy with the Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment, first as second-in-command and then, when his commanding officer was killed in action, Tweedsmuir became the youngest battalion commander in the Canadian armed forces.

TWEEDSMUIR'S marriage in 1948 to Priscilla Grant was decisive in influencing his future career. She was Tory MP for South Aberdeen - her first husband having been killed in the war - and came from a prominent family in the north-east of Scotland.

Lord Tweedsmuir (John Norman Stuart Burnie for most of his public servant, born November 25, 1911; died June 20, 1996

Douglas Cleverley-Ford Preaching with precision

THE FIRST impression of Douglas Cleverley-Ford, who has died aged 82, was just what one would expect a Hebrew scholar and an expert on preaching to be like.

When one got to know him, one understood why younger colleagues kept in touch long after they had ceased to work with him. He never tried to be "with it" but remained unashamedly of his own generation with standards whose worth he had proved for himself.

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Birthdays

Diana Margaret Anstee, former UN under-secretary-general, 70; Peter Blake, painter, illustrator, designer of Sgt Pepper's album cover, 64; Eddie Floyd, soul singer, 61; Rabbi Hugo Gryn, broadcaster, 60; Gen Sir Roland Goy, governor, Royal Hospital Chelsea, 58; John Henson, hamp ecologist, 62; Eddie Large, comedian, 54; Sidney Lumet, film director, 72; Vic Marks, cricketer and writer, 41; Roy Marsden, actor, 53; George Michael, singer, 33; Carly Simon,

Death Notices

WALLIS, Professor William, 25 June, after a long illness at Harrogate Hospital, Late Professor of Government in Liverpool, and Acting Vice-Chancellor, University of Liverpool, died June 23, 1996. He was the husband of Mrs. M. Wallis and father of Tim and Marjorie. Funeral private 0711 2500. For arrangements telephone 0711 713 4627. Fax 0711 713 4728

Jackdaw



Crossed roads

WHY DID the chicken cross the road? Plato: For the greater good. Machiavelli: So that it's subjects will view it with admiration, as a chicken which has the daring and courage to cross the road boldly, but also with fear, for whom among them has the strength to contend with such a paragon of avian virtue? In such a manner is the princely chicken's dominion maintained.

external influences which had pervaded its entire life from birth had caused it to develop in such a fashion that it would tend to cross roads, even while believing these actions to be of its own free will.

LAST summer, the problem was how to deal with air-conditioned offices when wearing the sleeveless shirt (we worked that one out with cashmere cardigans). This summer, it's all about finding a way to look your best in narrow, close-fitting pants - and I've discovered that means there's no escaping the underwear challenge.

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crossing has been greatly exaggerated.

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(visible party lines), I needed to make a visit to the intimate apparel department.

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Nigeria is most assuredly not a civilised country now, and it will never become close to being one for as long as any Keystone Cop, policeman or soldier can commit willful murder and have it smugly explained away as an "accidental discharge".

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gambit in Montreal one year was: "Hello, moosefucker."

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Handwritten signature or mark

150

Tomorrow: Trigger for union bashing

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
Fax: 0171-833-4456

Finance Guardian

COPPER CRISIS/Winchester Commodities had link with US metals company in Sumitomo affair

British firm guaranteed Global loss

Patrick Donovan City Editor

GLOBAL Minerals and Metals Corporation, the US company at the heart of the world-wide investigation into multi-billion-dollar fraud at the Japanese Sumitomo Corporation, had a formal financial link-up with Winchester Commodities, the Guardian has established.

agreed in a memorandum of cash collateral on May 2, 1994. The document adds that the amount secured by the charge was the "margin payable by Global Minerals and Metals Corporation to Credit Lyonnais Rouse Ltd and any losses incurred by the bank in excess of \$750,000 in respect of trading carried out on Global Minerals and Metals Corporation."

amount of money". Links between Global and all other leading commodity companies throughout the world are expected to come under scrutiny by regulators examining the circumstances behind the losses of up to \$2.5 billion (\$1.6 billion) at the Sumitomo Corporation.

\$40m 'pre-payment' roused suspicions

Paul Murphy and Owen Rowcott

INCREDULITY that Winchester Commodities was able to take a \$40 million "pre-payment" on a single deal struck for disgraced Japanese copper trader Yasuo Hamanaka sparked an extended investigation into the British metals brokerage by the Securities and Futures Authority, the City watchdog.

side betting that the price of copper would go up the other way. The deal had a three-month life span, with both sides of the transaction being "closed out" in September.

The SFA questioned why Sumitomo should want to do this deal in the first place and whether Mr Hamanaka had the necessary authorisation.



Home-grown... Insider John Stewart is the new Woolwich chief. PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID SILLITOE

New chief confirms old strategy for Woolwich

Jill Papworth

PLANS to convert the Woolwich Building Society into a bank and float it on the stock market in 1997 will remain on track under new chief executive John Stewart.

lost is one man from a very big, strong team. The message I want to get over, as opposed to anything about one individual, is just how well the Woolwich is doing, how strong our businesses are and how good our figures are.

that the Woolwich has received takeover bids, including one from the Prudential. "We have received lots of calls from people intimating interest, but none that constitute an offer or bid," he said.



Yasuo Hamanaka... authorisation for deal questioned

SFO chief seeks review of jury role in fraud cases

Ian King

GEORGE Staple, director of the Serious Fraud Office, last night called for a review of the law that requires complex fraud cases to be tried by jurors.

sure that any faint chance of unfair prejudice on the part of jurors was eliminated, which again added to the length and complexity of trials.

"I do not pretend to be sure of the answer, but I do think... with considerable experience in the field, we should be revisiting the question of whether the random jury of 12 ordinary men and women is an appropriate tribunal before which to try serious and complex fraud cases"

cases in Britain jurors were not used, with more than 90 per cent heard by magistrates, while in many other countries trial by jury was the norm.

criminal cases? I do not pretend to be sure of the answer, but I do think... with considerable experience in the field, we should be revisiting the question of whether the random jury of 12 ordinary men and women is an appropriate tribunal before which to try serious and complex fraud cases."

338 defendants, of whom 212 had been convicted. He added: "In over 75 per cent of our cases at least one defendant has been convicted, and that has usually been the principal defendant."

Notebook

Society spurns new blood



Edited by Alex Brummer

THERE is nothing intrinsically wrong with the Woolwich reaching inside its own organisation to select a successor to Peter Robinson, who left under an expenses cloud on April 2.

company might have been better served had it delayed longer and gone outside. A senior figure from elsewhere in the movement, such as Andrew Longhurst of Cheltenham & Gloucester, might have been a useful hinge during the conversion, before the more youthful Mr Stewart took over the helm.

Mr Stewart argues that the transition may not change matters very much — except that the members will become shareholders.

Staple justice

ALTHOUGH the Serious Fraud Office has been widely criticised, largely because of its failure to obtain prosecutions in high-profile trials, its record is not as bad as one might think.

Overall, it has a 63 per cent conviction rate and, in more than 75 per cent of cases, at least one defendant has been convicted.

Mr Stewart argues that the transition may not change matters very much — except that the members will become shareholders.

But that is a misapprehension. It will find it has another group of shareholders as well, fund managers who demand performance and dividends putting the quoted company in a very different position.

Moreover, like other public companies, it must make full disclosure of salaries, emoluments and pensions contributions, as required by the Greenbury code.

Plainly, the choice of a successor has not been that easy for the society, otherwise the selection would not have taken three months.

However, suitable candidates to head banks/financial sector companies are in short supply. Barclays Bank took much longer when it decided to split the jobs of chairman and chief executive and appoint Martin Taylor to the latter job.

The important point, however, was that it reached outside the interests of public confidence in a bank which had more than its fair share of management problems.

That is a particularly sensitive consideration in the case of the Woolwich. Even though the society has a distinguished history, a good record and impressive profits prospects (according to Mr Stewart), confidence ahead of the conversion to a public

Even so, the director of the SFO, George Staple, is clearly dissatisfied with the outcome of some of the more prominent cases. He believes that the prosecution is at a disadvantage because disclosure provisions favour the defence. This, he argues, will be partly remedied by the better disclosure required by the Criminal Procedure and Investigations Bill, currently progressing Parliament.

As weighty, in the Staple view, is the future of jury trials in serious fraud cases. In the last decade, two major studies, that of the Roskill Committee and Lord Runciman's Royal Commission, have been sympathetic to the abolition of juries in serious fraud and their possible replacement by an expert panel.

On the basis of his experience as a prosecutor, Mr Staple now appears sympathetic to this change and believes it poses no threat to natural justice.

Mr Staple is plainly on the right track. But one should also consider whether any such reform should be accompanied by changes in the law which treat insider trading — one of the most difficult cases to prove — as a civil offence.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Table with 4 columns: Country, Rate, Country, Rate. Includes Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Turkey, USA.

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli shekel)

NOTICE OF VARIATION OF INTEREST RATES. With effect from 2 September 1996 Mortgage Rate will decrease to 6.99% per annum for existing borrowers. The 100% Mortgage Rate will also decrease to 7.49% per annum, along with the Royal Premier Mortgage Rate to 6.24%, with effect from this date. Existing arrangements apply for Centralised Banking Services customers. The Royal Bank of Scotland logo and name.

12 SPORTS NEWS

Cricket

England v India: second Cornhill Test, final day

Russell leads the rescue party

After a life blighted by rain, bad light and burst drains, Dickie Bird's international career ended in bright sunshine when Mike Atherton declared England's second innings closed at 278 for nine, with not even the remotest chance of a result.

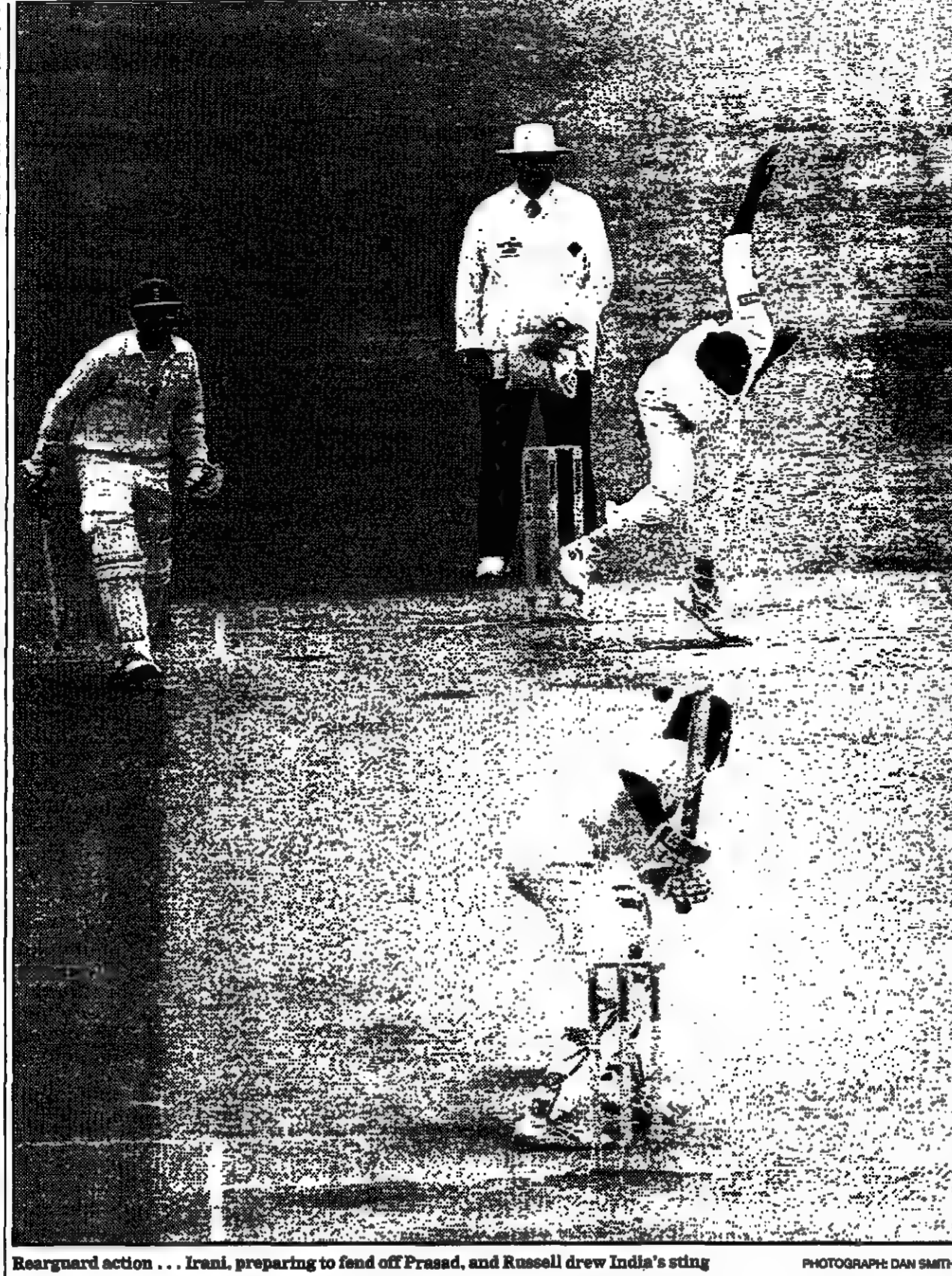
Two hours later he gave his index finger one final airing as he sent Jack Russell back to the pavilion - Dickie's Last LBW Victim will be on canvas soon no doubt - before, at twenty past and following still, you dirty-rattled his cuffs one last time, heaved a sigh, shook hands all round with the Indian team, removed the balls and was given a police escort from the field.

Scoreboard

Table with 2 columns: Team/Player, Runs/Wickets. Includes sections for India and England.

have appeared so stereotypical when the cloud lifted and the pitch lost its spite. It is a side that has now conceded only one Test in 10 (and that the result of a horrible half-hour in Cape Town when they were looking at victory) since the horror strip at Edgbaston last year.

The remainder all spent useful time in the middle as India led the chase and by Sri Lanka but Anil Kumble in a marathon spell from the Nursery End, attempted to chip away. Stewart fell early victim to unexpected bounce (although he plays on to his own wicket too often for comfort) and Kumble found a brace of a delivery for Thorpe which spat at him and drew a superb catch from Rathore at short leg.



Rearguard action... Irani, preparing to fend off Prasad, and Russell drew India's sting

Optimist Lloyd puts his faith in power of positive thinking

David Hopps finds the England coach in upbeat mood after a 'brilliant' draw. DAVID LLOYD talks so animatedly about English cricket that he should go the whole hog and paint his face with the flag of St George.

"We were absolutely brilliant," he said. "India will be desperately disappointed not to win. We had to play really well just to stay in the game."

would have grumbled that England's top order did not get enough runs and that much of the seam bowling lacked energy. He would also have been concerned that Stewart's place was precarious, that Hick and Atherton looked out of form, and that Mulally did not swing it.

amounting to 46 per cent of their match fee, represents one of the largest penalties in Test history. The most courageous decision was made by Mohammad Azharuddin. The latter, previously owned in partnership between Robert Sangster and American Rick Kaster, has been sold since running second in the French Derby and has been bought by a Saudi prince.

Yarmouth card with guide to the form

A detailed racing card for Yarmouth, listing various races (e.g., 2.15, 2.45, 3.15, 3.45) with horse names, jockeys, and odds.

Lingfield runners and riders

A detailed racing card for Lingfield, listing various races (e.g., 2.30, 3.00, 3.30, 4.00, 4.30) with horse names, jockeys, and odds.

Results

A table listing the results of various races, including horse names, jockeys, and winning odds.

Racing Injury rules out Shaamit

A DAY after announcing Shaamit a runner for next Sunday's Irish Derby, William Haggas had to inform the world yesterday that the colt would miss the race after injuring himself in his box.

"Shaamit twisted a shoe, is lame and sore," said the Newmarket trainer. "It was found at evening stables last night. I suppose it's better that it happened last night so that we saved ourselves the £50,000 supplementary entry fee (due today) but after spending most of Sunday saying how well he was I now have to turn round and say this."

"We'll have to play things by ear now in my experience. My feet things always take longer than you think, but the Eclipse or the King George remain possibilities."

The Eclipse Stakes at Sandown on July 6th seems certain to come too soon for the Derby winner but there is nearly five weeks until the King George at Ascot. Shaamit's defection takes a lot of interest out of the Irish race and in Ladbrokes' revamped ante-post list Dushyantor is favourite at 6-1, followed by 2-1 Dr Massini, 9-2 Alhaarth, 9-1 Polaris Flight.

A promotional advertisement for 'RACELINE' featuring 'Yarmouth 101' and 'Lingfield 102' with various racing statistics and contact information.

A large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page, featuring the name 'John' and 'fast to' in large, stylized letters, along with other text and graphics.

Athletics

Johnson on fast track

Duncan Mackay on the American sprinter's record feat

THOSE who feared that athletes were running out of room to expand the limits of human capability had their horizons lifted by Michael Johnson's astonishing run in Atlanta on Sunday when he obliterated the longest-standing world record.

The IAAF changed the timetable in March to aid Johnson's chances of becoming the first man to win the 200 and 400m at the same Games, a double he achieved at last year's world championships.

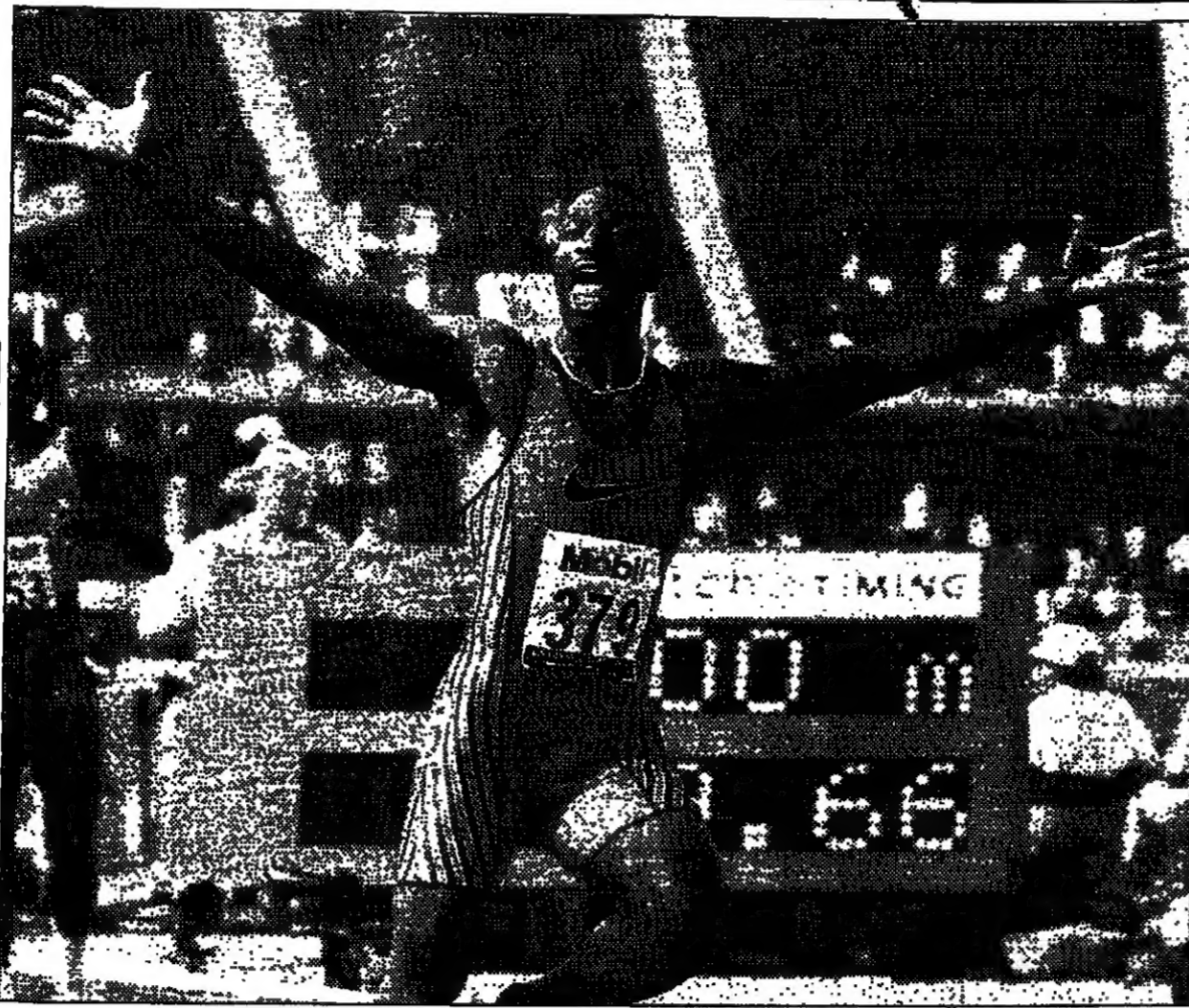
Having already won the 400m at the trials in 43.44, the third-fastest time ever, Johnson set his world record in his seventh race in eight days.

The Olympic champion Michael Marsh was almost four metres behind him in third place, with the emerging Jeff Williams second in 20.03 and Carl Lewis trailing in fifth. "It was a perfect day," said Johnson. "I had a lot of great competitors out there."

Part of the motivation for his Olympic quest stems from his painful experience in 1992. "Michael Johnson can lose — but not in Barcelona," he said on the eve of those Games. To the general consternation he did lose — even failing to reach the final of the 200m after being weakened by food poisoning.

Johnson, who is threatening to take the British Athletic Federation to court if it does not allow him to run a 400m at the London Grand Prix meeting on July 12, is scheduled to run the 200m three more times before the Olympics. He will race in Lausanne a week tomorrow, in Oslo against the Olympic silver medalist Frankie Fredericks two nights later and in Stockholm on July 8.

The American does not believe that the record to end all records has been set, or even approached. "It's going to be tough again at the Olympics and I think the world record could go down," he said. "I feel like I'm capable of running 19.5."



On top of the world... Michael Johnson breaks Pietro Mennea's 17-year-old 200m mark. PHOTOGRAPH: DOUG MILLS

Rugby League

Offiah and Newlove miss Euro decider

Paul Fitzpatrick

MARTIN OFFIAH, who scored four tries in the crushing win over France at Gateshead two weeks ago, has withdrawn from England's European Championship decider with Wales at Cardiff tomorrow.

The Wigan winger failed a fitness test on an injured toe yesterday and his withdrawal means that England will have to make do without the two costliest players in the history of the sport.

Earlier the St Helens centre Paul Newlove, bought from Bradford for a record £500,000 — Offiah cost £440,000 when he joined Wigan from Widnes in 1992 — had withdrawn because of a viral infection, and his place had gone to Salford's 19-year-old Nathan McAvooy, who scored 17 tries in 21 appearances in the Centenary season and leads with 15 in league and cup this season.

The 6ft 5in McAvooy will now partner John Bentley, the Halifax winger, who has been in his best form recently, scoring four tries against the London Broncos a week last Sunday. Bentley replaced Offiah for the opening match of the World Cup against Australia last October but then himself fell victim to injury.

There was disappointment for McAvooy's Salford colleague Steve Blakeley. The stand-off had enjoyed a promising debut against France but makes way for the more experienced Daryl Powell.

Wigan's Shaun Edwards retains the scrum-half position ahead of St Helens' Bobbie Goulding.

Andrew Farrell, the Wigan loose forward, takes over the captaincy denied him by injury at Gateshead, and that means Warrington's Paul Sculthorpe will move into the second row. Steve Molloy of Featherstone replaces the injured Karl Harrison at blind-side prop.

ENGLAND: S. Preece (St Helens); J. Robinson (Wigan); G. Connolly (Wigan); N. McAvooy (Salford); J. Bentley (Halifax); D. Powell (Cathay); S. Edwards (Wigan); P. Broadbent (Sheffield); J. Lawrence (Sheffield); S. Molloy (Featherstone); C. Joynt (St Helens); P. Sculthorpe (Warrington); A. Farrell (Wigan, capt). Substitutes to be named.

Cricket

England record

A WORLD-record sixth-wicket partnership of 132 between Barbara Daniels and Kathryn Leng steered England to 300 for seven by the close on the opening day of the first women's Test against New Zealand at Scarborough yesterday.

Daniels hit 160 — her maiden Test century — and Leng resumed today on 90. The pair came together at 133 for five and Daniels hit 20 boundaries on her way to the third-highest score by an Englishwoman in Test matches.

In the County Championship Derbyshire needed only 23 minutes to complete a 368-run victory over Middlesex that lifted them to third place in the table. The pace bowler Andrew Harris claimed a career-

best six for 40 to give him match figures of 12 for 83 as Middlesex were bowled out for 176.

Sussex also achieved a third successive championship win, beating Glamorgan by an innings and seven runs at Hove. The visitors, resuming the final day on 122 for three and needing 151 to make Sussex bat again, were dismissed for 265 despite 112 from the captain Matthew Maynard. Leicestershire gained their first victory in 17 visits to Bradford, crushing Yorkshire, who slipped to second place behind Kent, by an innings and 151 runs.

Durham's worst start to a first-class season continued when they lost by eight wickets to Surrey at Stockton. They have not won in 19 first-class starts.

Scoreboard

Britannia Assurance County Championship

(Final day of four)

DERBYSHIRE v MIDDLESEX

Derby Derbyshire (200m) at Middlesex (4) by 203 runs. DERBYSHIRE First Innings 371 (C J Adams 125, K J Barnett 52, Tabbell 5-72). MIDDLESEX First Innings 165 (Piers 5-42).

DERBYSHIRE Second Innings 383-2 dec (C J Adams 130no, D M Jones 100no, A S Pollock 76, K J Barnett 50).

MIDDLESEX Second Innings (overnight 167-6)

16 R Brown not out 29
18 A J Cox b Kribben b Harris 1
19 M A Fellham b Harris 1
20 A R G Fraser b Harris 7
21 R Tabbell run out 1
Extras (b4, lb5, w6, nb8) 20

Total (55.1 overs) 176

Fall of wickets 150, 186, 188, 195, 200, 205, 210, 215, 220, 225, 230, 235, 240, 245, 250, 255, 260, 265, 270, 275, 280, 285, 290, 295, 300.

DURHAM v SURREY

Sheffield Surrey (240m) at Durham (7) by eight wickets. DURHAM First Innings 377 (S L Campbell 88, S J E Brown 60, D G C Liverpool 66; Barnett 4-59).

SURREY First Innings 440 (M A Butler 100, D J Bicknell 106, J D Ratcliffe 51).

DURHAM Second Innings 203.

SURREY

Second Innings: 4 D J Bicknell b Lugden
5 M A Butler c Bolling b Lugden
6 J D Ratcliffe not out
7 M Baidoo not out
8 Extras (b3, w2, nb4) 9

Total (for 2, 51.5 overs) 148

Fall of wickets 36, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100, 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 114, 116, 118, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 144, 146, 148.

SUSSEX v GLAMORGAN

Hove Sussex (200m) at Glamorgan (8) by an innings and seven runs. GLAMORGAN First Innings 133 (Lewy 6-44).

SUSSEX First Innings 408 (K Greenfield 154no, I D K Salisbury 85, A P Wells 78, Thomas 5-21).

GLAMORGAN

Second Innings (overnight 122-3): 16 P Maynard c Greenfield 113
17 A Salter 57
18 P A Colley b Drakes 20
19 G P Butcher b Giddins 20
20 R D B Croft b Giddins 6
21 D Thomas run out 6
22 P Watson b Giddins 6
23 S L Watkin c Moore b Salter 0
24 T Parson not out 0
Extras (b4, lb1, w1, nb8) 24

Total (75.5 overs) 265

Fall of wickets 178, 211, 225, 244, 258, 286. Drakes 16-3-43-1; Lewy 16-4-56-2; Giddins 18-3-88-4; Salter 26-4-49-2; Law 3-0-18-0.

Wickets: A A Jones and P Wray.

YORKSHIRE v LEICESTERSHIRE

Sheffield Leicestershire (200m) at Yorkshire (4) by an innings and 151 runs. LEICESTERSHIRE First Innings 80-7 dec (J J Whittaker 218, V J Wells 200, P A Nixon 77no, P V Simmons 68).

YORKSHIRE First Innings 342 (M G Sevon 82, R D Stamp 67no, D Gough 82, Parsons 4-33).

YORKSHIRE

Second Innings (overnight 167-6): 68 M G Sevon not out
69 C White c Nixon b Parsons 2
70 P J Baines c Wells b Parsons 2
71 D Gough b Parsons 6
72 P J Harty b Mills 6
73 R D Stamp b Mills 6
Extras (b5, lb2, w5, nb2) 10

Total (71 overs) 188

Fall of wickets 162, 188, 172, 188, 195, 200, 205, 210, 215, 220, 225, 230, 235, 240, 245, 250, 255, 260, 265, 270, 275, 280, 285, 290, 295, 300.

County Table

Table with 3 columns: Rank, Team, Runs, Wickets. Shows Yorkshire at the top with 10,000 runs and 1,000 wickets.

Other matches

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP (First day of three; today, 11.0): Abingdon: Yorkshire 201-8 dec (S Parker 110, R A Northborough 84, C J Schofield 56, I D Fisher 50). Gloucestershire: Gloucestershire 144-4 (K Newell 106, M Newell 78; S. Jones 4-29) v Surrey. Chesham: Kent 410-106 (M R Taylor 111, C D Walsh 80, Hampshire 10-1). Derbyshire: Durham 283-8 dec (G Longley 102, C J Hughes 90, M J Foster 57, Essex 35-0). Hampshire: Leicestershire 116 (Dutch 3-36). Middlesex: 236-6.

Weston: Somerset 187 (C Brown 4-25). Lancashire 59-1. Match abandoned pitch unfit.

SIXES COUNTS CHAMPIONSHIP

Hertfordshire 207-5 and 201 (Butler 4-01). Bedfordshire 200-5 (R N Dalton 101no) and 123 (R D Williams 66; O'Reilly 4-31). Hertfordshire (200m) at Bedfordshire (8) by 118 runs. Warwickshire 287-4 (S D Nye 84 and 64-2, Wales 121 and 271 (M Sall 82; Nyles 4-34, Berkshire (24) at Wales (1) by 28 runs.

Starting today

NATWEST TROPHY (One day, 11.0): First round: Warwick v Cambridgeshire v Kent. 22 Ashtott Cornwall v Warwickshire. Chesham: Essex v Devon. Cardiff: Glamorgan v Worcestershire. Southampton: Hampshire v Norfolk. Belfast: Ireland v Sussex. Leicestershire: Leicestershire v Berkshire. Hereford: Lincolnshire v Gloucestershire. Bedfordshire: Northamptonshire v Cheshire. Aston: Warwickshire v Lancashire. Tamworth: Somerset v Suffolk. Staffordshire v Derbyshire. The Oval: Surrey v Holland. Headington: Yorkshire v Nottinghamshire.

The NatWest Trophy ends today.

For some.



Good luck to all the teams taking part in the 16th NatWest Trophy, the UK's premier one-day competition. Will it be the start of a long and glorious campaign towards the First Test in the summer? Or just a short walk back to the pavilion? However you perform, let's hope they make some runs before they walk.

NatWest More than just a bank

National Westminster Bank Plc.

EURO 96

Story of lost chances is short of a classic

David Lacey says Klinsmann's injury is bad news

REASONABLE though the thought may seem to those whose attitudes have taken root along the Siegfried Line...

The word on both Klinsmann and Bobic looks final, although nobody will be convinced that Vogts is not playing possum until the name of Klinsmann falls to appear on tomorrow's team-sheet...

Major tournaments, however, tend to be judged by what does or does not happen at the knockout stage, and so far precious little has occurred...

England's gradual transition from shy hosts to serious challengers has been compulsive viewing, Germany's last two matches, against Italy and Croatia, have found Berti Vogts's team betraying un-Germanic symptoms of self-doubt...

Losing Klinsmann is hardly conducive to regaining confidence but it could have been worse. If Seaman is the tournament's best goalkeeper then Sammer is its outstanding footballer...

Vogts's defenders are reigning supreme. No other team could have lost a defender of Kohler's quality and still remained as impregnable. Sammer, Babbel, Helmer and Ellis, a revelation in midfield, have mastered every attack they have faced...

Stoichkov is lined up for £3m return to Barcelona

BOBBY ROBSON is on the verge of taking the Bulgarian striker Hristo Stoichkov back to Barcelona in a deal worth about £3 million.

The move will disappoint several British clubs, including Blackburn and Rangers, who have shown interest in the player who scored three times for Bulgaria in Euro 96.

A Parma official said yesterday: "The Stoichkov transfer to Barcelona is fairly concrete now. There is only a small disagreement on the price but nothing that cannot be easily solved."

Teamtalk

Table with 4 columns: Team, Goals, Points, Position. Lists various football clubs and their performance in the tournament.

Call 0891 33 77+ For the latest News. Includes contact information for the Guardian's sports department.



Wembley beckons... Stefan Kuntz, left out by Berti Vogts since starting against the Czechs in Germany's first game

Germans' striking poser

Martin Thorpe on the vacuum left up front by the loss of Klinsmann and Bobic

GIVEN the traditional harmony of its industrial relations, Germany usually counts on a shortage of strikers. Berti Vogts, though, could do with a few more for the job tomorrow night.

Yesterday brought formal confirmation that what has become his first-choice pairing of Jürgen Klinsmann and Fredi Bobic will miss the Wembley semi-final against England. This means a place in the fun for Oliver Bierhoff and Stefan Kuntz, not one of the great striking partnerships in history but all that the Germany coach has left.

Although Klinsmann has played at Wembley — he came on as a substitute in a friendly in 1991 — he has long wanted to experience a meaningful match there. Now, as team leader, he will sit on the bench tomorrow night offering his services as a talisman if nothing else.

The pair have played together before for Bayer Uerdingen in the mid-Eighties; Bierhoff, tall and good in the air, complements Kuntz's smaller stature and nipper, opportunist nature. However, though both have impressed at club level, neither has set the international scene on fire.

Kuntz, now playing for Besiktas in Turkey, was joint top scorer in the Bundesliga in 1994 but from 17 caps coming into Euro 96 had scored only twice. He made the starting line-up for Germany's first group game against the Czechs but has

been a substitute since. Bierhoff is the only German left playing in Serie A and scored 17 goals for Udinese last season. But he came into Euro 96 with only three caps, having been called into the

Germany side this year at the late age of 27 when Vogts was hit by an earlier striking crisis caused by injuries to Rieke and Herrlich, plus Kirsten's loss of form, all of which kept them out of Euro 96.

Bierhoff impressed on his debut in February against Portugal and in March he scored both goals in the 2-0 win over Denmark. But he has started only one match in Euro 96, against Russia, and he made way for Bobic against Italy.

This is how keenly the loss of Klinsmann's leadership, class and experience (87 caps, 38 goals) will be felt. He is also at the height of his scoring powers, last season notching nine goals in Germany's 10 European championship qualifying games and a record 15 for Bayern Munich in winning the Uefa Cup.

In Euro 96 he has scored three of Germany's seven goals to date. Ominously, none of the rest has come from the other strikers. The England camp must be rubbing their hands with glee.

France's Ghana-born midfielder Marcel Desailly was not so reticent. When I wear that French shirt I am as proud as the next man," he said. "I do not need to be singing the national anthem before a game to show my total commitment to my country."

Two caps of coffee. Later Jacques found himself besieged by journalists seeking options. He could play a lone striker, probably starting with Kuntz and bringing off the 33-year-old when he tires, substituting Bierhoff. This would mean an extra man in midfield.

Alternatively he could ask Möller, who dislikes playing up front but has done it in the past, to move forward out of the hole to partner Kuntz or Bierhoff. Or Vogts could start with the two remaining strikers.

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The Refs

ITALY'S Pierluigi Pairetto was yesterday named as the referee for Sunday's Euro 96 final at Wembley.

Hungary's Sandor Puhl will take charge of England's semi-final with Germany at Wembley tomorrow while Scotland's Les Mottram will officiate between France and the Czech Republic at Old Trafford.

The 43-year-old Pairetto began refereeing in 1967 and officiated in the 1992 European Championship finals in Sweden and the 1994 World Cup in the United States. He has been one of this tournament's more understanding officials, issuing only five yellow cards. Here is a full list of caution and sendings-off:

Table with 3 columns: Group, Referee, and a numerical value. Lists referees for various matches in the tournament.

France's Ghana-born midfielder Marcel Desailly was not so reticent. When I wear that French shirt I am as proud as the next man," he said. "I do not need to be singing the national anthem before a game to show my total commitment to my country."

Two caps of coffee. Later Jacques found himself besieged by journalists seeking options. He could play a lone striker, probably starting with Kuntz and bringing off the 33-year-old when he tires, substituting Bierhoff. This would mean an extra man in midfield.

Alternatively he could ask Möller, who dislikes playing up front but has done it in the past, to move forward out of the hole to partner Kuntz or Bierhoff. Or Vogts could start with the two remaining strikers.

French patriots aim for dark horses

Ian Ross disturbs the peace to wonder where's Leboeuf?

WHAT should have been a day set aside for peaceful reflection for the France coach Aimé Jacquet yesterday became little more than a catalogue of gnawing, petty distractions.

Twelve hours after learning that his side would be up against the most proficient of the dark horses, the Czech Republic, in tomorrow's Manchester semi-final, Jacquet awoke to the accusation that his players were unpatriotic.

A fax — from the French federation presumably, no one was saying — received by Jacquet over breakfast outlined the salient points of a speech made in Nîmes the previous day by the leader of France's National Front, Jean-Marie Le Pen.

The squad is full of foreign players and they don't seem to know the words of the Marseillaise," Le Pen had said.

No doubt conscious that Le Pen is a politician sustained by the oxygen of publicity, Jacquet contented himself with a simple protestation. "We are all proud to wear the red, blue and white," he said, anxious to close the debate.

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Don't devalue us say bouncy Czechs

Michael Walker finds the so-called no-hopers asking to be taken seriously

BY THE look on Dusan Uhrin's face the morning after the Czechs' victorious night before, his estimation that his squad had been in bed by 2am looked a conservative one.

But who can argue with the Czech Republic's manager now? Rated as no-hopers before the tournament, even though they topped their qualifying group ahead of Holland, Uhrin's side have outstayed the Dutch again.

In the process they have had a great hand in the downfall of Italy and Russia and on Sunday night they accounted for the fancied Portuguese. It is well past time for the Czechs to be taken seriously and for patronising journalists to stop asking them if it is all a great "surprise".

At yesterday's trite news conference the "surprise" question raised its head again several times and Uhrin and his squad looked understandably fed up with it.

Fortunately they have a good line in sarcasm and Jan Suchoparek's answer to yet another "surprise" inquiry was typical: "Do I look surprised?" Suspended for tomorrow night's semi-final, having been booked in the first minute against Portugal, the defender was asked whether he was upset about that. Smiling, he said: "Do I look upset?"

Suchoparek then spoke of the strong camaraderie in the squad and how they all loved wine, women and song, especially women. When he returned to on-field matters he was equally enthusiastic. "The victory against Portugal was a highlight but the Portuguese were not as dangerous as Italy. But the Portuguese match has got us a medal. And I don't think the quarter-final will be our last word."

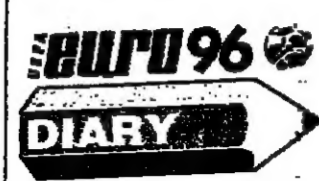
France are next. The sides last met in Bordeaux in 1991. The Czechs were two goals up with 10 minutes left, only to draw 2-2. "We were the better team in Bordeaux," Uhrin said, "but I saw the French in their first game of the tournament and even then I said they were the best team."

Later the coach said the two teams were evenly matched now, but his concern about France's dull power was shared by Suchoparek. "It will be a different match," said the defender, "and I hope we can cover for the four players suspended. But if we are leading 2-0 again we shall not lose."

"We are always optimistic. Not only are we among the four best teams, we can be in the top two."

If they do reach Wembley, England would be daunting on home turf and Germany beat them in the opening

Man in manure shock



DOMINIC ROWBOTHAM would like to say a huge sorry to every England footballer he has insulted. And since he is marketing managers of PaperHouse — the card manufacturer which makes cheap jokes at the team's expense — he has a lot of grovelling to do. In fact he would like to say sorry 120,000 times, one for every birthday card his company has produced mocking Our Brave Boys.

PaperHouse's discomfort had its foundation some months ago when one of its creative whiz-kids decided to make a cheap gag at England's expense. It went like this: "What's the difference between the England football team and a sack of manure?"

Oh dear. Mr Rowbotham knows an own-goal when he's scored one. "We produced it a long time ago and we'll obviously have to have a rethink now," he squirmed yesterday. "We would lose face if we continue to publish it, although it is on our best-seller list. All I can say is I'm delighted we've been proved wrong."

Now that the football has been sorted out, what about the cricket? PaperHouse offers this on Mike Atherton's team: "What's the difference between the average male and the average English cricketer? Both think it a miracle if they stay in for more than five minutes." Jack Russell is not amused.

AFTER the knockout comes the final blow. Or in Hakan Sukur's case several blows (allegedly) plus a number of swipes with a baton.

To explain: Turkey's star striker was minding his own business in Istanbul, pondering his country's Euro 96 exit, when a group of teenagers offered their views on the national team. Sukur took offence, to quote an official from the local prosecutor's office, "there was a beating incident, the kids filed a complaint, and we are now looking for him to get a statement."

He gave no further details but Turkish newspapers have claimed that Sukur attacked the youths when they claimed that Turkey was "disgraced before the whole world", hitting them with a baton he kept in his car. He then drove off — and over a stray foot that failed to get out of the way.

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Sport Guardian

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Wimbledon 1996

Sly Sampras slows down and hots up

Stephen Barley

PETE SAMPRAS made the traditional champion's start on Centre Court and wobbled a little before beating his fellow American — and hitting partner — Richey Reneberg by 6-4, 6-4, 6-3 thanks to a canny change of gear.

But there was no slow-down from the No. 2 seed Boris Becker, who dispatched France's Jean-Philippe Fleurian, nor from the No. 4 seed Goran Ivanisevic. The Croatian's task was made even easier when his scheduled opponent Bernd Karbacher fell down some stairs on Sunday night and ceded his place to the Roehampton "lucky loser" David Nainkin; the South African was sent on his way with a total of four games won and an unexpected bonus of almost £8,000.

Reneberg is one of the world's great triers. He turned professional in 1981 and in 1984 reached the dizzy heights of the fourth round in the US Open. Apart from this he has never gotten — as the Americans say — past the third round of a Grand Slam. Yet he set yesterday he played like a man possessed against Sampras, who found the ball flying past him with extraordinary regularity. This year's brighter balls are supposed to be easier to spot and Reneberg was indeed seeing them like balloons.

Sampras had actually begun his pursuit of a fourth successive title with studied assurance, with Reneberg getting only the very edge of his racket to the champion's first serve. Reneberg then had his own serve easily broken, Sampras throwing in a beautifully nonchalant top-spin lob. So far, so simple.

But then, at 0-2 down and seemingly going nowhere fast, Reneberg began to unleash a series of quite stunning returns. The harder Sampras served, the harder Reneberg returned.

The champion frowned; the champion fretted. He had slipped on the lush grass in the third game and at times put a hand to his back as if something might be troubling him.

him, other than Reneberg, twice Sampras lost his service and he was suddenly a set down. Inevitably thoughts went back to the French Open semi-finals when the physically and mentally exhausted American was brought to an almost complete standstill by Russia's Yevgeny Kafelnikov.

He continued to suffer on his serve, particularly the second delivery which Reneberg continued to belt past him. Sampras wavered and then was broken again. At one set and 2-3 down the reference books were being scanned to check the last time the No. 1 seed had been ditched in the first round. (Manuel Santana, 1967.)

But Reneberg's run could not last. After 51 minutes the 30-year-old occasional seed-crusher from Phoenix played his first loose and lousy shot. He was about to be consumed by Sampras' fire.

Not fire-power though. The champion's pace had been working in Reneberg's favour, so Sampras began to slow it down. He chipped and sliced and gradually, inevitably, his opponent's previously tight game plan began to unravel. By the third set Sampras's serve was back in its groove; by the fourth there was only one winner.

"As the match wore on I started to calm down and by the end I was playing pretty well," said Sampras. "Richey and I practise a lot together so he knows my game real well." Not quite well enough, though.

Stefi Graf begins her defence today but Monica Seles, who last played at Wimbledon in 1992, returned to Centre Court yesterday to set a first foot on the road she hopes will bring her back to the same place against the German a week this Saturday.

Much has been written about the American's injured shoulder and she has made it clear that the pain is constant. But such is the iron hold she has over so many opponents that she could get through the first week with her arm in a poultice.

There was little to be gleaned from yesterday's victory over the American's vicar, managed to get in only six first serves in the first set, which lasted 31 minutes, and was broken twice. He put a tired backhand volley into the net to lose the second set and was broken to 15 in the seventh game of the third when he netted a forehand. A wide backhand was the last shot he played at Wimbledon.

Quick final exit for trouper Bates

Paul Weaver sees a sad end for the former British No. 1.

WIMBLEDON, happily, remains a xenophobe-free zone. Though the possibility exists of England beating Germany at football on India at cricket, there is no chance of the country providing the winner of the Gentlemen's Singles Championship at the All England Club.

Jokes about British tennis players are always safe but there will be no more about Jeremy Bates. Yesterday, out in the country on Court 14, the man who has carried Britain's national hopes for almost a decade on sagging, forlorn shoulders played his last match of importance. He was beaten in straight sets, 6-2, 6-3, 6-4, in 1hr 43min by Nicolas Pietrangola of Venezuela and received a standing, tearful ovation.

Bates produced a rather flat performance against the former Wimbledon junior champion, who is ranked 97 in the world but who had won only one match in four previous senior appearances at these championships.

It would have fitted the big story that he would have been German. In his last match he was asked how he thought England would fare against Germany tomorrow. "I think we've got a good chance now Klinsmann is not playing," he said.



Added bite... Monica Seles returned to Wimbledon after a four-year absence with a 48-minute demolition of the American Ann Grosman. "I just felt really nervous, like before a speech or something," after the No. 2 seed and joint world No. 1 said later. "I couldn't feel my hands were moving" TOM JENKINS

Becker looks after No. 1

Frank Keating watches the No. 2 seed deliver a booming auf Wiedersehen

BORIS BECKER looked in ominously sharp form as he began the fortnight's cavalcade bidding farewell to No. 1 court. He punched in hurtful clusters in allowing the Florida-based Frenchman Jean-Philippe Fleurian only one game, and then "Competition is so tough these days that you cannot just stroll into a tournament any more and play yourself in during early rounds; you have to be at your peak your very first serve."

As it happens, Becker opened the match with a double fault. At which there was a gruff leonine growl, a momentary flick of tongue across his hirsute lips, and three aces from the next four serves, with the only ball Fleurian could lay a racket to.

being terminally dispatched with the famous fixing backhand volley. One game, five points, and just one return over the net. Taus Wimbledon 1996 began as it will continue.

Growing perhaps, but not a grunt to be heard from Becker. Although only 26, the German is just about a championship level statesman and so zestfully committed is he that it is hard to believe it is 11 years since he first paraded the golden biscuit for the cameramen on the final afternoon. The grunts will come when the competition gets hot. "For the present I am striking it very cleanly, serving great and moving well."

On the other hand, Fleurian was not so much grunting at his service as snarling at the ball for being so wayward. He

might have sensed a glimmer at 4-0 after only a quarter of an hour when Becker double-faulted to 15-40, but at once the German leapt at his throat with ace, ace, ace, and then throttled solitary impudent return with a feathery stop-volley at the net.

And so it went on: 6-0, 6-2, 6-3. The Gallic handsome Fleurian is 30 now. In 1990 he was briefly ranked No. 37 in the world and France had high hopes. Yesterday he looked as out of it as a teaball sutor of Leslie Caron on the night they invented champagne.

At last Fleurian was in on the beginning of the end for old No. 1. Becker said: "I will miss this old court. It is sad, I have won well there and also lost badly. Just to anyone in the world say 'No. 1 court' and they know you mean that special and unusual place with fair, character and atmosphere. If I am not there again this time, I am glad I

was there today to say goodbye."

Entrances and exits. Across the concourse on Court Three, just as Becker was ripping into his scarring partner, the No. 8 seed Jim Courier, another occasional predator of these fields, was tamed being led away 6-2, 6-4, 2-6, 6-4 by Jonathan Stark, who played and served very well.

The sun was out but Courier was not wearing his familiar peaked cap. He looked altogether a differently pale and wan fellow without it, his two-fisted mid-court ssp displayed only fitfully and on principle as it were.

Stark, an American doubles specialist, allowed Courier a little daylight during a brief third-set revival. Then at 2-3 in the fourth Courier slipped on the base-line and stayed there.

You knew it was all over except for the limping curtain-call after the masseur had been on for a 10-minute

time-out working on an aggravated groin injury. Courier gamely saw out Stark's inevitable win, but Wimbledon-wise for him it was a 12-month time-out.

"Early rounds, when the grass is green, I knew I'd be struggling. Okay, it was physical this time, but when I get back the secret of mental consistency I'll be okay again. My career's been a roller coaster, and it's been a fun ride and you have to accept the downs only so you can enjoy the ups. I'll be up again."

One wonders, and I didn't dare ask whether it might all be something to do with giving up that cap.

Chris Wilkinson beat the Swedish veteran Anders Jarvill 6-1, 6-2, 6-7, 6-2. Claire Taylor, who beat Jo Ward 6-3, 6-3, will now play Mary Pierce. And Colin Beecher was another British player to defeat his fellow Briton Nick Gould 6-4, 6-4, 6-7, 6-3.

Order of play

CENTRE COURT (Singles in 20; 20:30) 1st Round: (1) R. Federer (S) vs J. Bjorkman (S); (2) J. Bjorkman (S) vs J. Bjorkman (S); (3) J. Bjorkman (S) vs J. Bjorkman (S); (4) J. Bjorkman (S) vs J. Bjorkman (S); (5) J. Bjorkman (S) vs J. Bjorkman (S); (6) J. Bjorkman (S) vs J. Bjorkman (S); (7) J. Bjorkman (S) vs J. Bjorkman (S); (8) J. Bjorkman (S) vs J. Bjorkman (S); (9) J. Bjorkman (S) vs J. Bjorkman (S); (10) J. Bjorkman (S) vs J. Bjorkman (S); (11) J. Bjorkman (S) vs J. Bjorkman (S); (12) J. Bjorkman (S) vs J. Bjorkman (S); (13) J. Bjorkman (S) vs J. Bjorkman (S); (14) J. Bjorkman (S) vs J. Bjorkman (S); (15) J. Bjorkman (S) vs J. Bjorkman (S); (16) J. Bjorkman (S) vs J. Bjorkman (S); (17) J. Bjorkman (S) vs J. Bjorkman (S); (18) J. Bjorkman (S) vs J. Bjorkman (S); (19) J. Bjorkman (S) vs J. Bjorkman (S); (20) J. Bjorkman (S) vs J. Bjorkman (S); (21) J. Bjorkman (S) vs J. Bjorkman (S); (22) J. Bjorkman (S) vs J. Bjorkman (S); (23) J. Bjorkman (S) vs J. Bjorkman (S); (24) J. 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Sports Guardian

WIMBLEDON: AMERICAN DREAM TURNS TO NIGHTMARE ON OPENING DAY

Agassi joins scattering of the seeds

Chang and Courier sent packing along with the No. 3 seed. **Stephen Bierley reports**

LOSING is the great American sin, and on the opening day of the championships Michael Chang, seeded No. 6, and Jim Courier, seeded No. 8, sinned most horribly. But the greatest sinner by far was Andre Agassi.

The No. 3 seed, and on his day the most brilliant player in the world, lost abjectly by 2-6, 7-6, 6-4, 7-6 to Doug Flach, a 25-year-old American qualifier ranked 281st in the world and playing only his fourth match in a Grand Slam tournament.

It was a quite staggering defeat. Flach played well enough but there was obviously something askew with Agassi's mental state. Whatever, this was a huge shock.

Agassi was bundled out of the French Open early by the little-known American Chris Woodruff and many questioned his appetite for the game. He was under-prepared and patently unfit but claimed this week that his fitness and mental state were back to normal. He was clearly kidding himself.

Usually one of the quickest movers around the court, yesterday Agassi was notably sluggish. He won the first set and there appeared no real problem but after that the match slipped away with ever greater rapidity.

He talked afterwards about the pressure that Flach put on him but he was unconvincing. This was an awful perfor-

mance which no amount of excuses can explain. Too much money, too little tennis may be a glib summing-up but this is the way it looks at the moment.

Agassi arrived in London a week ago and had his preparation broken by a heavy cold; yet when he won Wimbledon in 1992 against Goran Ivanisevic he had practised very little. That year his genius saw him through, together with the motivation. The latter at least is currently missing, and missing badly.

Chang has never managed to get beyond the quarter-finals in this tournament but few expected him to lose to the Spaniard Alberto Costa, a clay-court specialist with a natural suspicion of most things green.

Two years ago at the same stage Chang had beaten Costa 7-6, 6-4, 6-2, and a repeat performance seemed imminent when the American won the opening set. Thereafter it was the Spaniard who took control, serving particularly well.

Costa, 21 today, reached the final in Monte Carlo this year, eventually losing to Austria's Thomas Muster, who pulled out of Wimbledon last week with a thigh injury. Costa then lost to the same player in the semi-finals of the Italian Open in May, again on clay, and went out disappointingly early at Roland Garros, where he had been expected to do well.

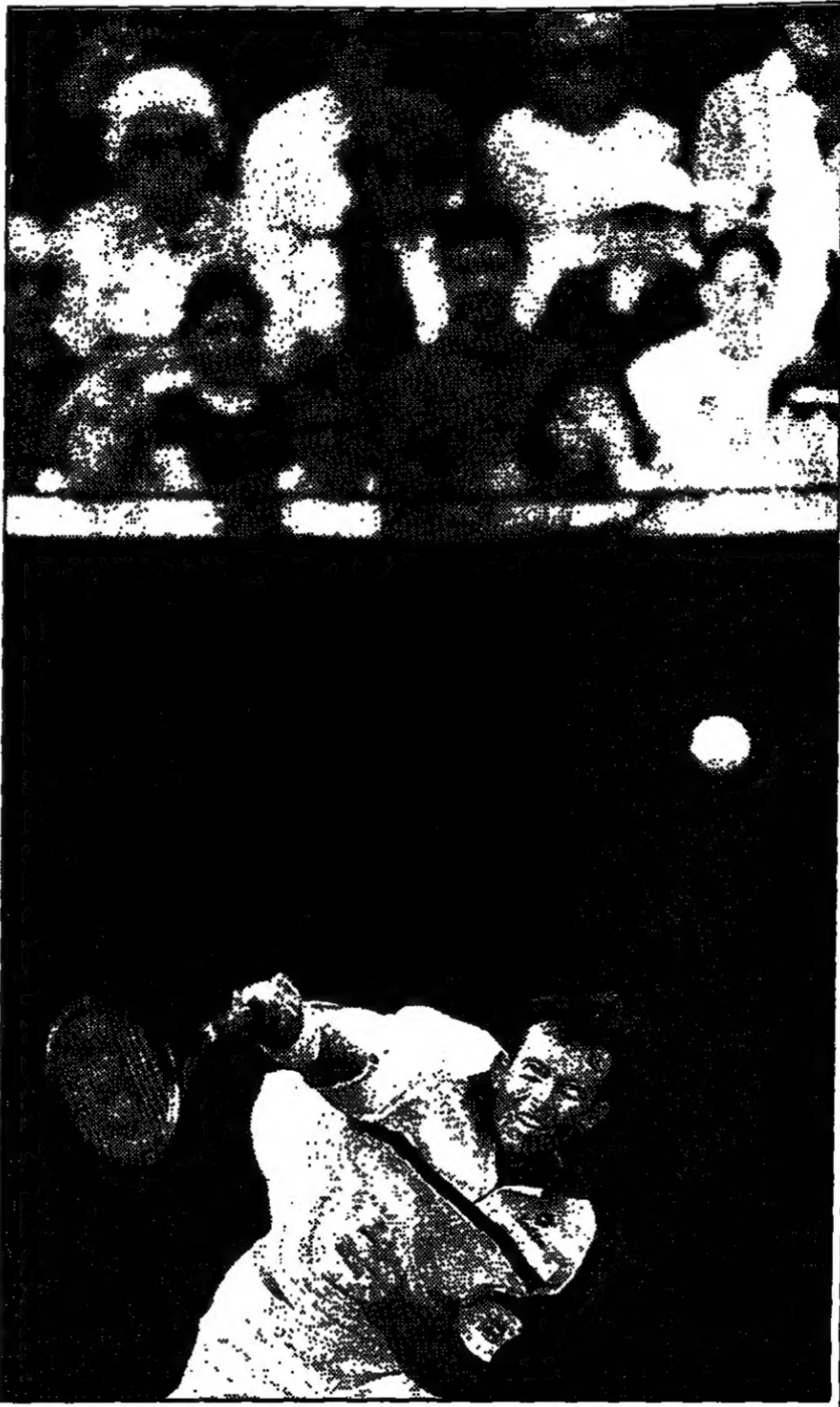
The Spaniard had been practising hard on his serve-and-volley and grew markedly in confidence as the game progressed; Chang by comparison grew ragged. Costa eventually winning comfortably 3-6, 7-6, 7-6, 6-4.

Courier, like Chang, is no greater lover of Wimbledon's grass but made the final in 1993 before losing to Pete Sampras, the reigning champion and three-times winner. On this occasion he was up against his fellow American Jonathan Stark, and matters began to go very wrong from the word go. He lost the first two sets, clawed his way doggedly back, and then in the fourth set fell awkwardly.

There were no complaints from Courier. "I knew going into the match that I would have to be really sharp. For Michael Chang and me these courts are pretty much an equaliser in the opening rounds, particularly if we play guys who are aggressive." Stark was certainly that, taking full advantage of the extremely lush grass and initially overcast skies to win 6-2, 6-4, 2-6, 6-4.

Courier's great years were between 1991 and 1993 when he won four Grand Slam titles. "I don't think anything has happened to my game. I'm hitting the ball as well as I've ever hit it. What I'm striving for now is mental consistency," he said, though many believe his time has gone.

Another seeded casualty was the women's No. 7 Chanda Rubin, who had to withdraw because her wrist injury, aggravated at Eastbourne last week, had not recovered.



Parting shot... Jeremy Bates heading towards defeat yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JENKINS

Straight-sets defeat as Bates bows out for the last time

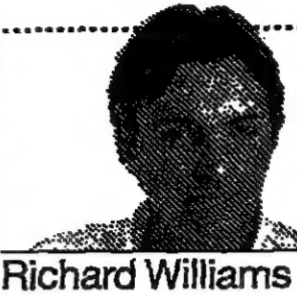
JEREMY BATES, who bravely bore the cross of British No. 1 for seven years until 1995, yesterday played his last game at Wimbledon, and in top-level tennis, out on Court 14. The 34-year-old was beaten in straight sets, 6-2, 6-3, 6-4, in 1hr 43min by Nicolas Pietrangola of Venezuela.

For the best part of 10 years what little hope Britain nursed in the men's singles rested on Bates's shoulders, and in his final exit the crowd gave

him a standing ovation. Southampton's Chris Wilkinson enjoyed a four-sets win over the veteran Swede Anders Jarryd and now meets Slovakia's Jan Krosnak, conqueror of another Briton, Andrew Foster.

Colin Beecher and Claire Taylor triumphed in their all-British contests but Essex's Sam Smith faded after taking the first set against the 15th seed Irina Spirlea, winning only three more games. *Paul Weaver, page 15*

Focus on the grass-roots movement



Richard Williams

EVERY big tournament has its own buzzword. At the Olympics in Barcelona four years ago you couldn't have a conversation with an athlete without hearing the term "focus", which turned out to be a synonym for "concentration". At Euro 96, the word is "movement".

"I was pleased with our movement," one coach says. "We lost our movement," another laments. "I thought their movement was excellent," says the spectator who aspires to rise above the Fantasy Football level of expertise. Everybody nods, as if they know exactly what is meant. Most of them, I'd guess, haven't a clue.

What is this thing called "movement", and how does it differ from just running around and passing the ball to one another?

You certainly know it when you see it. Spartak Moscow had it against Blackburn Rovers in the Champions' League. Auxerre had more of it than Nottingham Forest in the UEFA Cup, even though Forest knocked them out. England suddenly found it against Holland, only to lose it against Spain. Which doesn't mean they stopped running. Movement, in this context, is more than that.

Perhaps it's like "swing", the rhythmic quality which distinguishes jazz but is not susceptible to definition or analysis. "Mr Ellington, a well-meaning square is supposed to have inquired, 'what is swing?' To which the Duke is supposed to have replied, 'Lady, if you have to ask, don't mess with it'."

I felt like that lady when I asked Howard Wilkinson about movement. Wanting a straightforward definition, I went to the coach who is most likely to respond to the average journalist's clumsy post-match attempt to elicit tactical analysis by narrowing his eyes and uttering the admontory phrase: "Football's a simple game."

"All good teams have it," the Leeds United manager said yesterday. So what is it? "Someone who stands still for a long time is easier to mark than someone who doesn't."

But it isn't just a question of one man dashing up and down, attempting to energise the rest. Movement is a collective thing, which is what makes it mysterious.

"Individual movement is rarely productive," Wilkinson explained, "so it has to be in cooperation with other players. There have to be underlying principles, and they've got to be adhered to so that people can move in a collaborative way."

It is something we are more used to seeing in foreign teams than our own. "Well, it's a concept which has been thought of as important for a long time in other countries. It's part of their young players' education. If you've watched German teams for the past 20 years, for instance, there are patterns that stay the same no matter who is playing. Even if they're playing for clubs in different countries, you can put them back together and they'll go back to what they were taught as kids."

So what about England? How could such wonderful movement against Holland become virtually no movement at all only four days later?

"The last thing you learn," Wilkinson said, "is the first thing you forget." Meaning that we're trying to teach it to players who are already mature? "To a degree. Responsible people in this country have been trying to do something about it for years, but the system militates against it. To create a rounded footballer requires a lot of time, good coaches, continuity, and the determination to put long-term goals ahead of anything else."

But even good training can't guarantee movement. The Dutch became famous for it when they invented Total Football, but this month they've shown hardly any.

IN WILKINSON'S eyes few teams exemplified movement more clearly than the great Liverpool teams of the Seventies. "Given time, and the fact there's no physiological difference between English and Dutch players, there's no reason why we can't acquire these habits." Still, movement isn't everything. Some teams in Euro 96, Wilkinson pointed out, had plenty of movement but failed to reap the reward. He mentioned Croatia, Portugal and Romania. "That's how the Germans might end up on Wednesday night," he said. In which case, *Berti, wir haben die Bewegung in unserer Aufbauspiel verloren* will be the phrase to listen out for. Berti, we've lost our movement.

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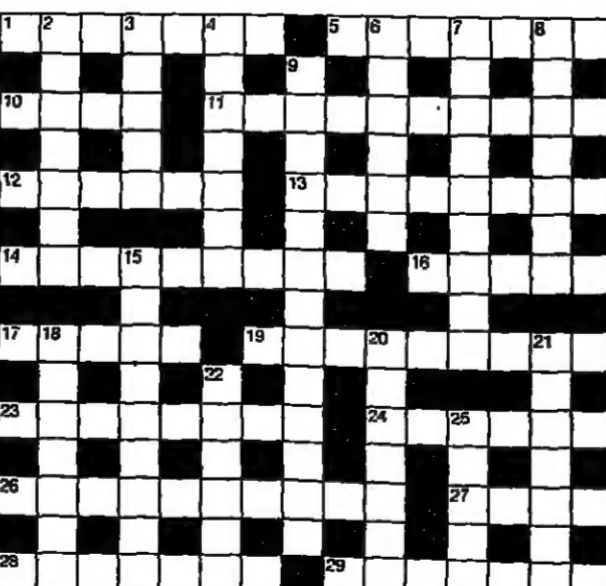
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Don't miss the award-winning team of Richard Williams, Frank Keating, Matthew Engel, David Lacey, Mike Selvey, David Hopps, Stephen Bierley and Vincent Hanna in the unique sports magazine free with the Guardian on Friday

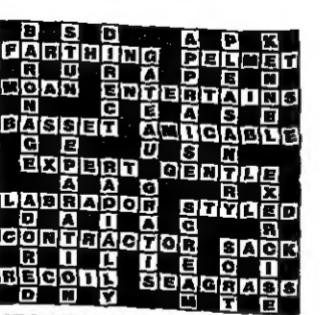
Sports

Guardian Crossword No 20,688

Set by Orlando



- Across: 1 Barbicourt found in an Italian city and mid-Wales (7); 5 Is present as a race finishes (7); 10 Retreating before spitfire (4); 11 Detective tipped over container in politician's path (10); 12 Noise constrained by English lines (6); 13 Delivered ten cents in settlement (8); 14 Adapt elms as trees (4,5); 16 Some painters engrave (5); 17 Poet's pigeon (5); 19 Clean round about rug? It's too early! (8); 23 Cutting, always in southern garden, first planted outside (8); 24 Keep putting part-time soldiers in control (6); 26 Cheese makes tongue dirty (6,4); 27 Fish fingerprints? (4); 28 Strife for criminal leader on trial (7); 29 Nothing left, or nothing like this sherry? (7); Down: 2 Land transformed into sea (7); 3 Approve a constant animal (5); 4 Caribbean island opposed to force takes a U-turn (7); 6 Die in attempt to be fashionable (6); 7 Minced meat set in cafe (9); 8 Imprisonment provides cure and rehabilitation (7); 9 A flower Sir Graham cultivated in a Welsh town (5,5); 15 Interpreter needed by river - it gets confused (9)



CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,687

- 18 Wild marjoram seen round about wild ass (7); 20 A poet has to make imperfect verse and measure (7); 21 Transport for burials at sea (7); 22 Things seen on guns (6); 25 In France you stick up for a royal house (5); Solution tomorrow

Private Enemy... latest score in the England game tonight: 4,000 free... How to... Inside

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